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Great Britain.

LONDON, JAN. 31—FEB. 1, 1882.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, has cause to reproach fate for having postponed his birth to too late an epoch. Thirty years ago, or even twenty, his denunciations of barbarous and perfidious Britain would have been entirely in order. At present they are received by the House of Representatives at Washington with derision and laughter. Eloquence overrides argument; it is animated by the anger of an audience; contempt and mockery are an atmosphere in which it cannot breathe. If the American people generally be surprised at all by the conduct the British Government has pursued towards Irish disorder, the wonder has been excited by the moderation and long-suffering. Irish politicians are not so popular in the United States for their method of dealing with domestic affairs that Irish grievances against England are likely to rouse any active sympathy. Americans know very well how they would have treated attacks upon the rights of property among themselves of the kind made across the ocean by organised Land Leaguers. There have been times in the history of the two countries when absence of love for the Irish element in the American nationality might have been supplied by the presence of dislike or jealousy against the United Kingdom. This is not such a period. Americans and Englishmen are so closely knit together by the sense of a kindred origin and kindred tendencies that the bond even stands the test of the reaction to be anticipated after the extraordinary emotion of universal compassion for the murdered President. The disapproval expressed by most American organs of opinion of Mr. Blaine's threats directly against Chili and indirectly against Great Britain is still more satisfactory evidence of the indisposition of the people to fabricate causes of international offence. Mr. Blaine, once Speaker of the House of Representatives, lately Secretary of State, twice a candidate for the Presidency, and a very possible President hereafter, is a different personage to Mr. Robinson. He, if any professional politician, might have been presumed able to feel the pulse of the national judgment. From his own account of the motives which prompted his amazing instructions to Mr. Commissioner Trescott, he appears to have perceived in the prostration of Peru before Chili an opportunity for a stroke of business in favour of American commerce. To accept his own apology for his Peruvian partisanship as justified by English partisanship on the side of Chili would be to do an injustice to his clearness of political vision. Nobody knows better than Mr. Blaine that Chilian successes are not due to English backing. Mr. Blaine has no sort of testimony to produce for his allegation that Peru feels the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn. British shipbuilders manufacture ironclads for Peru as gladly as for Chili. So would American shipbuilders, if there were any competent for the undertaking. British trade has suffered, not gained, by the deplorable civil war which has desolated Peru. British traders and investors would be delighted by any pacification which should leave Peru able to follow the path of independent and vigorous progress. Mr. Blaine pays more honour to British diplomacy than Englishmen are prone to render when he envies and extols it as always bold, energetic, and vigilant in spreading the commercial power of England. He pays its ceaseless activity and dexterity more honour when out of office than he ever showed himself to entertain for it when he guided the policy of the United States at Washington. No statesman who had respected foreign statesmanship would ever have panned either the instructions to Mr. Trescott or the despatches to Lord Granville. Unfortunately for his own reputation, he committed the mistake of misapprehending, not merely the character of British statesmanship, but the temper of his own countrymen. The position of Great Britain is definite in these matters. Great Britain does not use her national power to push her commerce, as Mr. Blaine affects to believe. She seeks no political favour for her trade in South America or elsewhere. She does not calculate on possible political complications arising from the projected Panama Canal. If anything, she is more inclined to be careless of the future than to prepare warily for remote contingencies. In opposing an unargumentative negative to Mr. Blaine's recent summons to surrender an absolute patronage of the international relations of South and Central America, a to the Government at Washington, the British Foreign Office simply acted on the prosaic British method of following facts. Great Britain cannot pretend that she is not concerned in South and Central American affairs, when notoriously, both as the leading commercial Power of the world and as a great American Power, she has a most intimate concern in them. Mr. Blaine himself urges her excessive interest in them as his patriotic ground for endeavouring to introduce an American counterpoise. In negotiating, or trying to negotiate, with Lord Granville on the subject of the Isthmus, he asked Lord Granville whether he turned to the advantage both of the Sultan and of the suffering populations. The Turks will, as they promise, at length fairly face the facts of the present day, reform their Government in Armenia, apply the organic statute for reforms in the European provinces, and, by approving the nominations made by the Governor of East Roumelia, try

surviving sanctions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is but a way of stating the fact. The disappointment to Mr. Blaine will have been less that the British Foreign Office should have exhibited its usual dull habit of seeing things just as they are than that the native commerce he sought to benefit should have been equally obtuse. Peru, if lifted on its feet by an exercise of exceptionally benevolent neutrality, might conceivably, though South American gratitude is short-lived, have repaid the kindness by commercial privileges. An equivalent impulse of fear might have led to similar effects with Chili. Public opinion in the Union has steadily asked the price of these highly speculative advantages. It has found it in some curious allusions, in Mr. Blaine's despatches, to the military force at the command of Washington. Lord Granville is reminded of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who saved the Union from disruption. American citizens feel no call to challenge Europe to witness how gaily they would water the banks of M. de Lessups' new canal with their blood. They are even dismayed at a State manifesto which reads like an invitation to consolidate with it the loose sand of South American Republicanism in the faint hope of replacing English manufacturers with Pennsylvanian iron and Massachusetts cottons. *Times.*

and secure the goodwill of the more advanced and enlightened section of the Bulgarian nation, their Government will even now obtain a fresh lease of life. Mr. Goschen has stated that "no power still retains so much real influence at Constantinople as England." With so talented and so genial an Ambassador as Lord Dufferin to represent her Majesty at the Sultan's Court I cannot but continue to hope. Pressure by England for Turkish reforms is the evidence of our true friend-ship; but continued misgovernment cannot but lead to the control of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attended well with regard to Greece and Montenegro, Lord Lytton admits that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) in removing thence the causes of disorder; but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—safer ground in Egypt. In Egypt Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," which, it appears, Lord Granville has succeeded. Tory newspapers accuse us of truckling to France, of going into a foolish partnership, of keeping out the rightful owner—by whom they mean the Turk. But they forget their modern history. The joint action of England and France in Egypt is an invention for which we are not responsible—an invention of our predecessors. In the spring of 1876 Lord Derby refused, though asked by France and Egypt, to appoint a Controller; but in November of that year an Anglo-French control was decreed by the then Khedive, and in December Lord Derby, while again refusing to appoint, allowed an Englishman to accept the appointment of Controller. In 1878 Lord Salisbury agreed to the appointment of an English and a French Cabinet Minister, on the understanding that if either were dismissed without the consent of the English Government, the case might be referred to the control which should revive. In 1879 the Khedive dismissed Sir Rivers Wilson and his French colleague. The Khedive was then threatened by Lord Salisbury with deposition, and threatened by him in the names of England and France. The Khedive, refusing to obey Lord Salisbury's orders, was deposed. In July, 1879, the Sultan communicated to England and France a draft Firmān for Egypt. At the instance of France, who urged that its form constituted an attempt to re-establish the authority of the Sultan in Egypt, it was much altered, and was ultimately agreed to by France; the Porte offering to France a further explanation of the exact meaning of the Firmān. In August French and English Controllers, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, refused to Germany, to Austria, and to Italy any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. In addressing you on August 19, 1879, I pointed out that Lord Salisbury had virtually "taken the Government of Egypt into our hands and those of the French Republic," and that he had "reversed the cardinal principles of our Egyptian policy"—and for which its present form, Lord Salisbury is responsible. At the same time, from the evidence adduced from the Egyptian point of view, the control has worked well. It has been officially recognized by those best able to judge of its effects, that the control has brought about the "spread of education, the abolition of vexatious taxation, the establishment of the land tax on a just basis, and the limitation of forced labour." The material prosperity of Egypt is now extraordinary. (Hear, hear.) It is impossible to wonder at the ferment in Egypt. That country has long been ruled by despotic means. The word of the late Khedive was law. His son is a man of gentle habits, and of moderate ways. Of course there was danger in the change. A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to mean that the Egyptian people desire to see the institution of a Government of such a character as to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the country which lies across the highway to the British East should be governed by well-grounded institutions, rather than by autocratic khedives, eight of whom, I find, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles them to give advice, and to expect that it shall be followed. To England and France it is due that the country has been relieved from arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual return. If the control is the safeguard of the Egyptians, it is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and with guarantees they cannot be expected to dispense. If it is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Domains, and the Dairia Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for moneys spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But the present administration is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and being there, it forms the rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

Coming to the subject of the French Treaty negotiations and Free Trade, the speaker said:—

In one matter of foreign affairs, I myself have been personally and busily engaged during the recess. The nature of such a negotiation as that on the proposed French Treaty makes it impossible that it should be carried on, except by men on whom a good deal of discretion, and even power, is conferred. Cobden complained that he was hampered by the Government in 1860. The present Royal Commission may be exercised, of course, in conformity with the general tendency of opinion. That opinion was on that occasion declared to us by two debates in the House of Commons and by two days of discussion in the House of Lords, and from both it appeared plainly that almost all thought that a Treaty should be made if one could be obtained that would be equivalent to the *status quo*, and that no Treaty should be made if such terms were unattainable. (Hear, hear.) There is, indeed, one enormous advantage in a Treaty—stability; but even that advantage may be bought too dear. The French Government and Parliament had proposed to greatly raise their duties. We declined to sanction the imposition of higher protective duties than those which now exist. They proposed also to convert duties levied proportionately to the values of the articles imported into fixed rates by classes. Such fixed duties, pressing, as they do most heavily on the cheapest articles, are anti-democratic in their nature. It was not for us, however, to undertake the defense of the French poor against the Legislature they elect. Our business was to see that duties were not on the average raised in the course of the conversion. Our nominal basis was in the French proposals, but the real basis was the *status quo*. I say the *status quo*, and do not mention the Treaty of 1860, although the mover of the second and hostile resolution of the House of Commons—Mr. Bright—would have been contented with the Treaty of 1860. We insisted on the *status quo*, as established by the Cobden Treaty, the Belgian, and later treaties—a condition much more favourable to trade than that of the Treaty of 1860. We still hope that there

may be some result from the labours of the Commission. (Cheers.) Nothing, however, will induce us to put our hands to a Treaty of a retrograde character. (Cheers.) Whatever may be proposed in the direction of raising duties upon wines, we are hearing just now less than we were a few months ago of proposals for a complete change of front on our commercial policy. Even then we told our friends to raise twenty million out of foreign goods, without taxing food, have not received the offer. After eight months' hard labour at picking to pieces the French tariff I know as much about Protective tariffs as most Englishmen, and I can tell them that they would be the raising of twenty millions out of goods at present untaxed, without taxing food, no easy master, and I do not know how their manufacturing friends would like taxes on raw material (cheers). France, with a Protective tariff, at revenue-producing rates, raises from such goods only three millions sterling; Belgium less than half a million; Holland far less than half a million; Germany, with a high Protective tariff, less than three millions sterling. I would advise the authors of such proposals to read the great speech, pronounced on April 29, 1879, in favour of fighting hostile tariffs with a weapon of free imports by Lord Beaconsfield. Conservative candidates at recent elections not only advised a course diametrically opposed to that recommended by the late Troy chief, but in particular desired to see a reimposition of taxes upon corn, an idea which I thought that Lord Beaconsfield had crushed out among the ranks of his supporters. It is a mistake to suppose that, as these gentlemen assume, we are being excluded by increasing tariffs from foreign markets as a result of the action of the Speaker suggested a similar crisis occurs. It was said that freedom of speech was endangered if the House should assume the power to close a debate. Now, freedom of speech was the breath of the life of the House of Commons—(cheers)—and if freedom of speech were put in peril he would not be party to a procedure of that kind, but he was persuaded that the House, in its wisdom, might find a way of safeguarding liberty of speech and of combining order with freedom of debate. (Cheers.) Referring next to agricultural topics, the Speaker said the depression from which the land interest suffered was attributable mainly to the character of the seasons. No doubt they suffered from competition, but farmers did not complain of the present prices of agricultural produce. They complained, and he thought justly, that they were unduly taxed. He hoped the effect of the depression would be to ensure more regard for these grievances in Parliament. The owners of land had a grievance. He justly complained that the article which he possessed could not be transferred from hand to hand without excessive charges, which diminished its value. Those owners who had encumbered estates could not fairly go to Parliament and say, "Our land is not able owing to the wants of the law to part with any portion of our estates, facilities for doing so, in order that we may better that which would remain." Then, again, the farmer was fully entitled to be able to say that he ought to be compensated for any improvement which, during the currency of his holding, he has carried out. He was also entitled to appeal to Parliament to place local taxation upon a more equitable basis. The labourer, he seemed to him, had also a grievance, he had not the same political privileges which his brother householders had in the town. (Hear, hear.) He had considerable experience of the agricultural labourer, and he was bound to say that he thought the agricultural labourer would make a valuable and safe addition to the electoral body of this country. (Cheers.)

The forms of the House will sooner or later have to be dealt with in a twofold manner—by repression of obstruction, and by delegation of duties to other bodies. The former is the more pressing want. That which Sir M. Hicks Beach has called "the worst Parliament that ever sat" but which we know to be a gathering of unusually wise, patriotic and able men, debared from doing the work they are met to do, will not in my opinion tolerate obstruction for many more weeks from now. The power to close debate is fully possessed by the Parliaments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. It is possessed by the Parliaments of Spain, of the United States, of Victoria, and of South Australia, and by one House (the Legislative Council) at the Cape. It has become necessary in this, as it has been in certain other matters, to follow the example of some of our own Colonists, from whom we took the form of ballot which we have adopted here. No one can seriously contend that we ought to be content to pass one important Bill a year by a majority which lies across the highway to the British East should be governed by well-grounded institutions, rather than by autocratic khedives, eight of whom, I find, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles them to give advice, and to expect that it shall be followed. To England and France it is due that the country has been relieved from arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual return. If the control is the safeguard of the Egyptians, it is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and with guarantees they cannot be expected to dispense. If it is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Domains, and the Dairia Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for moneys spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But the present administration is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and being there, it forms the rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

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will be some result from the labours of the Commission. (Cheers.)

(From the "World.")

The somewhat strained relations between the leading sons of the English and Danish Courts, owing to the supposed slight passed by the one on the other, have been satisfactorily adjusted. The Prince of Wales and the Prince of Denmark met at dinner on Sunday under peculiarly happy auspices; and it is, I hear, likely that the former will shortly pay a visit to the latter, and inspect the celebrated two roses, which—proof of the extraordinary mildness of the season—are now in full bloom.

The shooting over the sporting estate of Benacre Hall, hired for this last season by Mr. Crabb and General Paget, is not to be regretted; the proprietor, Sir Alfred Gooch, intended to retain the whole of his shooting, over about seven or eight thousand acres, in his own hands.

He had a season for woodcocks has never been known during the whole winter; not a hundred have been shot in the most favourable covert in England—Lord Hastings' big wood in Norfolk. On the other hand, so many partridges have not been shot for many years. Between three and four thousand have been bagged on one or two estates, generally the favourite haunts of these birds.

The young proprietor of Somerleyton Hall is coming out quite as a county benefactor. Sir Savile Crossley has not only undertaken to hunt the pack of hounds in the neighbour-

hood, but is entertaining largely, and giving shooting-parties for the benefit of his neighbours all round. Somerleyton Hall is about seven miles from Lowestoft, and one of the few lions of that watering-place, as well as of Yarmouth, from which it is about the same distance. It was an old manor residence some thirty years ago, and was purchased by Sir Morton Peto, who spent fabulous sums in alterations and decorations. Amongst these expensive improvements was the magnificent conservatory, now known as the Winter Garden, which is unique in its way. This was brilliantly illuminated, and proved a very attractive feature at a ball given there last week by Lady Crossley.

Mrs. Langtry is, I believe, agreed to return to the Haymarket next season, when she will probably play in a revival of *The Overland Route*, for which two or three special engagements have been made; the services of Mr. Alfred Bishop and Mr. W. J. Hill have been secured.

The hunt balls, which are now coming thick and fast, mark a period in the season. The V.W.H. at Cirencester last week was a noteworthy success. Over two hundred and sixty members of the leading families of the neighbourhood, including Lord and Lady Bathurst, Sir Michael and Lady Hicks-Beach, Lord Victor Seymour, Lady Westmorland, Lord Clinton, Lady Maria Ponsonby, and Lady Grace Fane, were present. In fact, it was an aristocratic crush. Mr. Master, who usually fills the Abbey with friends, had, in consequence of recent illness, only his nephew, Sir W. Curtis, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Master, as guests. There was no scarcity of beauty, Mrs. A. Master, Mrs. Jarrett, Miss Hillard, and Miss Callendar among the most admired. The first annual ball of the O.B.H. took place next day at Great Marlow.

Rye has had its picturesque dissipations for a charitable object. The company numbered three hundred, and some of the fancy dresses were brilliant, if there was not a single original costume. Lady Sutton appeared in ball-dress, Lady Albert Seymour as the Mascotte, the Hon. Mrs. Charles Duff as a fishwoman, Lady Cochran in evening dress, the Hon. E. Kollo as a coastguard-man, Lord Albert Seymour in Warwickshire Hunt uniform, General Sir H. Daly and General Redmond in uniform, and the Hon. R. A. Leslie Moore in Windsor uniform.

They have funny rules of etiquette at Eton. A young friend of mine, who by hard work had won a very high place in the list of candidates for Woolwich, went down to his alma mater to take leave of his old comrades. On calling on the Head-master, Dr. Hornby, he was informed that that potentate never wished good-bye to boys unless they left the end of term—or by special appointment! Colonel Brackenbury, our military attaché in Paris, is about to be transferred to the Horse Guards, and there are, of course, a good many applicants for so agreeable a berth. I am told, however, the Colonel the Hon. George Villiers is the official appointment to the post would be the most generally popular, both at home and abroad.

Mrs. Cornwallis West, who has been seriously ill with inflammation of the lungs, is now much better, and by the advice of her physician, Dr. Collins, she is shortly going to Alziers for the restoration of her health.

I am sorry to hear that Mr. Alexander Henderson has been attacked with serious illness in Paris.

Another sacrifice on the altar of patriotism is decreed by the Irish "ladies" of Liverpool in Land League assembled. They pledge themselves to buy and wear neither hats, feathers, or gloves" while Mr. Parnell is in prison. Dr. Dixon's appeal for the holocaust of the teapot and tobacco-pipe, not to speak of the glass of toddy, has, it seems, fallen on deaf ears. The "stomach fund," however, is to be recruited by a concert and ball in Dublin on St. Patrick's eve, which will not, I imagine, empty Countess Cowper's salons, the "ladies" being so for the most part in a strictly Pickwickian and parliamentary sense. The Marchioness of Queensberry's cruel repudiation of the title in view of his present conduct has evidently led, as a furious attack on the noble and charitable Irishwoman appears in that cultured and chivalrous print, the *Irishman*.

The "

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 2-3, 1882.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE UNION
GÉNÉRALE.

The stoppage of the Union Générale, followed by the arrest of M. Bontoux, the president, and M. Féder, the manager of the company, has naturally directed attention to the proceedings of that remarkable association. Of M. Bontoux himself it is becoming to say little now that his conduct is subject to judicial investigation. It is difficult to believe that a company whose Board of Directors included members of some of the most distinguished families in France—the d'Harcourts, the de Broglies, and others—should have consciously and deliberately lent itself to fraudulent transactions. But it is certain that the mania for wild speculation, from which no section of French society seems to have held aloof, has afforded opportunities for illicit transactions of which it is difficult to believe that no one has taken advantage. A financial crisis such as that which has occurred in Paris, though it spreads ruin far and wide, does not leave every one the poorer. There are always a few men coיהheaded enough to take advantage of the general infatuation, and they are not always very scrupulous as to the choice of their methods. If they and their clients weather the storm, nothing is heard of their doings; but if a crash comes, there is a natural tendency to treat them as scapegoats. Of the nature of M. Bontoux's transactions, whether legitimate or illegitimate, we say nothing at present; but it is only just to notice the tribute paid on Thursday by M. Léon Say to the integrity of the Paris brokers. He had seen, he said, a thing which had not been witnessed for a century in the Paris money market. He had seen brokers taking measures amid a financial crisis without Government intervention for insuring that all their customers should be paid punctually at settlement without knowing whether the debtors would be equally punctual. This upright conduct of the Paris brokers contrasts very favourably with the proposal of M. Andrieux, the deputy for Lyons, for a sort of temporary act of indemnity on behalf of the brokers of Lyons. No doubt the financial crisis at Lyons is even more serious than at Paris, and it may easily have very unfavourable effects on French commerce and industry. But the feeling of the Chamber was so strong against any proposal to relieve individuals from the consequences of what was stigmatized as gambling that M. Andrieux was interrupted in the reading of his proposition, and it was speedily disposed of by means of the "previous question."—*Times*.

The *Daily News* observes:—The Comte de Chambord is said to have been a devoted believer in M. Bontoux, and to be a heavy loser by him. A wild speculation in the shares of the Union Générale set in, and women as well as men are believed to have taken part in it. Indeed, there are stories told of aristocratic ladies hiring rooms in the business quarters of Paris, to be near their brokers and within reach of every scrap of intelligence that might affect the value of stocks. In the drawing-room and at the dinner table, too, the talk of stocks and shares quite banished the usual interchange of gallantry and the discussion of politics. It was thought that all that was necessary to make a fortune was to buy Union Générale shares, and the clerical and reactionary parties rushed wildly to buy. In consequence, the nominal £20 share, on which only £5 were paid, was pushed up at one time to £10, and stood for a long time at £12. From this last figure it dropped suddenly within a few weeks until the quotation now is entirely nominal. But, though the foolish and the inexperienced swallowed all the fine promises of M. Bontoux, experts were quite aware that a mushroom growth of this kind could not last. Accordingly some of the great operators in Paris began to sell the shares of the Union Générale, without, however, having them in their possession. They trusted that the knowledge that they themselves were selling would alarm the holders of the shares, and would lead to a heavy fall; or, in any case, they hoped that, if called upon to deliver the shares, they would be able to borrow or to buy them. They were disappointed, however, in both expectations. The followers of M. Bontoux stuck gallantly to their colours, and refused to be frightened by the action of the "bears" as the sellers in blank are called; while M. Bontoux on his part bought up all the shares that were offered. As it is illegal for a bank to buy its own shares, it was alleged that the Union Générale had lent money to its clients, and that they had given the order to M. Bontoux to buy. If this be so, of course the purchases can be justified, even though the purchasers themselves may not be able to repay the loans advanced to them. There may have been want of caution and much ill-judgment in making the loans; but of course every banker is liable to mistakes. It is asserted, however, that the orders from the clients referred to were in a large part mythical, and that, in reality, M. Bontoux was using the money of the bank to buy its own shares. This clearly is a very grave charge—that of using the deposits entrusted to the bank to buy its own shares; for now that the bank has failed the depositors have in return for their money only the worthless shares to look to, which in reality are of no more value than blank paper. At the last meeting of the shareholders of the Union Générale M. Bontoux stated that the profits realized in all these ways were great enough to enable the shareholders to pay up the £15 still due on each of their shares. He recommended therefore that, instead of declaring a dividend, the profits should be applied to pay up the shares in full. This recommendation was adopted. The plan always seemed suspiciously absurd to judicious observers. If the alleged profits really were made, they were made, as we have said, chiefly from the money earned by promoting other companies, and partly also from the "cornering" operation, which could not often be repeated. They were therefore to a large extent accidental, and it would have been the proper course for the Directors to put to reserve by far the larger part of them, which would have enabled the bank to go on until gradually it obtained proper banking business. But if the object was to hide the fact that the money of the shareholders and depositors

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PRICE 40 CENTIMES

had been squandered away, it was a most clever device. The shareholders, finding their responsibility for fifteen pounds a share so easily wiped out, were not curious to inquire whether the money for doing so was in the bank or not. It is now asserted that since the failure of the bank an investigation has been made, and instead of the large profits represented to have been realized by M. Bontoux, there is a deficit of nearly four millions sterling. Much depends of course upon what is meant by the word "deficit." If it means alone that the profits represented to have been made are not forthcoming and cannot be accounted for, the matter affects the shareholders chiefly. But if it means that the capital of the bank has gone, and part also of the deposits, it becomes a very serious matter. Then M. Bontoux would in fact be accused of having represented that the bank had made large profits when in reality it was utterly bankrupt; and he would also be accused of employing the deposits entrusted to his care in buying the shares of this bankrupt concern. As yet the information before us does not enable us to say which is the interpretation to be put upon this alleged deficit in the funds of the Union Générale.

The Standard says:—It is perfectly certain that since the collapse of the Crédit Mobilier no such disastrous financial failure as this has affected France. The prospects of a favourable liquidation are certainly not bright. Still, the depositors appear to be safe, and the loss will fall mainly on the Directors and those shareholders who bought in when the Stock was at an inflated price. The latter may be dismissed, as most of them are likely to prove men of straw. But the Directorate is composed of people of wealth and position—who might almost say the pink of Orthodoxy and the flower of Legitimacy. The list which our Correspondent furnishes reads like the roll call of the *ancienne noblesse*, who, only ten years ago, seemed in a fair way to rule France, under that "Roy" whom rumour asserts to have been sent to Mauritius at Seychelles. 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ENGLAND AND THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The *Saturday Review* remarks that Egypt has recently furnished a topic to more than one speaker who holds, or has held, an official position which at once enables and authorises him to speak on the subject with more than usual authority. To quarrel, not with France, but with the rest of the world, in order that we may make France the sole mistress of Egypt, is a piece of hollow folly of which the Government may have been guilty, but of which we cannot be sure it has been guilty until we know what has really happened. Lord Granville may have changed his mind entirely since he informed France that England would view with displeasure a French occupation of Tripoli, as it would bring France much too near to Egypt. But it is also possible that he may be of the same mind now as when he wrote about Tripoli. There is no kind of evidence at the command of any one who is not in the secrets of our own or some other Foreign Office that the course taken by England has offended the German Powers, or that France has made England follow her lead, or that the just claims of the Sultan have been ignored, or that the Ministry is not walking, as Sir Charles Dilke says it is, in the paths of its predecessors. There is always chance that an English Foreign Secretary, whether he is a Liberal Conservative, has been prudent and firm; and the best thing to do before either condemning or approving Lord Granville seems to be to take the advice of Mr. Bourke, and to wait until the meeting of Parliament supplies us with the information that is indispensable for forming a correct judgment. The occasion for action may not arise until there has been time for England to determine, in conjunction with France, with Europe, and with the Sultan, what form intervention, if absolutely necessary, shall take, or else to adopt a totally new policy, and to retire from all exercise of political influence in Egypt.

The *Times* says:—The time seems to be rapidly approaching when it will be necessary to ask what is the exact meaning attached by the Governments of England and France to the Joint Note lately addressed to the Khedive. It is plainly necessary that our own Government should lose no time in ascertaining the views of the new Government in France on the present situation, as well as its real intentions in case the contingencies contemplated in the Joint Note should arise. Either the Note means that force will be used if a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathised with the fall in the “rubbish” which has occurred. But the very discredit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh. Her Majesty's dinner party in the evening included the Empress Eugénie, the Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, Madame de Arcos, Mlle. Corvisart, the Duc de Bassano, Baron Corvisart, Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Captain Bigge. The Hon. Lady and Miss Ponsonby and Mrs. Bigge, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, had the honour of joining the Royal circle in the Drawing Room. Her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria and a numerous suite arrived at Dover on Saturday morning from Calais by special boat. Her Majesty had a very pleasant voyage, the sea being quite calm. On arriving alongside the pier Captain Sir T. C. Bruce, R.N., went on board and escorted her Majesty from the vessel to the special London and North Western train, which was waiting on the pier. Among those who also went on board to receive the illustrious visitor were Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Mortimer Harris and Mr. Cockburn, as representing the London and Chatham Railway, and Mr. J. P. Neel, superintendent of the London and North Western Railway. There was a large assemblage of ladies on the landing-stage. The Empress had a reception at the Lord Wardrobe Hotel, and left soon for the London Junction, and Duxbury, with the London Extension, for Combermere Abbey. As regards the estimable Curates of the Alliance, I am afraid that they will have to wait a long time before they attain fixity of tenure and improved diocesan status.

Balle, it is true, died in dignified competence; but I want to know why the bust, or at least, the medallion portrait of the gifted Irishman, is not to be seen in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey? It should be, as an instalment of justice, the Cloisters might serve. When a distinguished architect dies, there is rarely any desire to propose the bust to the Alliance, but to put the matter more plainly, there are some five thousand curates, assisting rectors and vicars in parochial work and receiving for the same salaries ranging between one hundred and one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. Then there are about five thousand more curates “unattached”; but a very large proportion of these, I should say, must be assistant masters in schools. The “attached” curates plead that they are liable to dismissal at the capricious will of their employers, and that they ought, in justice, to be irremonably, and to be paid directly by the incumbent, but out of a diocese, for the services. All had a very interestingly attended meeting in the small parish vestry-room on Friday week, and a few days afterwards the *Times* gave the Alliance a leading article, in which a liberal allowance of buckets of cold water was administered to the “ecclesiastical hirelings,” as Jeremy Collier bitterly complains that the curate of his time were called.

The term “Curate” has been strangely perverted from its original meaning. At first Curate signified any ecclesiastic having a care of souls; and “curate” was, indeed, a convertible word with “parson.” The Clown in “Twelfth Night” (act iv, sec. 2), who pretends to be “Sir Topas the Curate,” broadly asserts that he is “Master Parson.” As regards the estimable Curates of the Alliance, I am afraid that they will have to wait a long time before they attain fixity of tenure and improved diocesan status.

The *Daily News* says:—It is possible that Tewfik himself turned for assistance to the Sultan. If he does, it will probably be the most imprudent step which he ever took in his life. The Joint Note was no doubt directed against dangers which menaced the Khedive's authority, and not against additional elements of disturbance which he should deliberately introduce himself. But it is impossible to foresee what might happen if a Turkish force were sent to Egypt by the Sultan at this critical juncture. The independence of the Khedive, such as it is, would be gone, unless the protecting Powers themselves interfered. England could indeed scarcely acquiesce in the reimposition of Turkish authority upon a country in which she has so vital an object to secure. It is not easy to see what justification we have for interfering with Egyptian claims to self-government, or what object we should gain by crushing Oubabi.

The *Daily Telegraph* observes:—To pause now and do nothing; to ignore Lord Granville's despatch of November last and the Joint Note; to leave the Controllers unsupported, and let a fresh set of Mamelukes adventurers prey upon the Egyptian Treasury in face of the brute force embodied in half a dozen mutinous regiments of undisciplined blacks, would be an atrocious de-

reliation of duty and a betrayal of the claims, not of Liberalism merely, but of humanity. Whether the duty of restoring order and then bringing the mutineers to their senses be confided to English and French troops, or, as seems most likely, to the well-disciplined battalions of the Sultan, who is Suzerain of Egypt, strong measures, under the sanction of England and France, must be applied; and the sooner the better.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

The *Economist* points out that it may be taken for granted that, however free London has been from the taint of French speculations, we must be affected by it. It is an axiom of Free Trade that what benefits our neighbours will, in the long run, benefit us likewise; and certainly the reverse of this is equally true where trade is as unfeigned as it is between the Paris Bourse and Capel-court. Nor must it be supposed that the effect of this crisis in Paris will be very temporary. The prices not only of financial institutions, but of other descriptions of enterprise, such as railways, Suez Canal, and other concerns, have been forced up unwarrantably high, and confidence in such prices, once shaken, is not readily restored. Besides which, the defalcations throughout France are distressingly numerous, and settlements which are only bolstered up by millions borrowed from the State cannot certainly be considered reassuring. Had the Paris crisis occurred when speculation ran so high in London last spring, when stocks were being held here so largely with borrowed money, and when our subscriptions upon new securities had attained exceptional dimensions, the effect would have been far more rapid and pronounced. As it is, a probable improvement after the weakness of last autumn has been checked, and the existing probabilities are that it will continue to be so checked for some time to come. France will not, in the nature of things, recover very soon from the shock to credit now apparent, and this may be expected before long to react upon trade. Austria and Hungary, doubtless, will feel all this more than we shall, for in France there has been a rage for Austro-Hungarian securities of all kinds; but in a modified form it will probably be found to have affected us; and even now our trade advices are distinctly less favourable than they were a month ago.

The *Statist* says:—The crisis, it must be understood, is not wholly a Bourse crisis. It is a monetary and banking crisis as well, and it is this feature which will make the after consequences in France more serious than they would otherwise be. Business having been developed during the last few years, by means of credit institutions, the disturbance of credit which has occurred will check the means of action which these companies have enjoyed, business will be curtailed in some directions, and all France must suffer in consequence. Along with this will be a great diminution in the purchases of certain articles of manufacture and general consumption in France, owing to the disappearance of the apparent wealth which the rise on the Bourse had created. The time for feeling these after-consequences has not yet come; but that they will be felt is quite certain, as long experience has shown. Very likely they will be surmounted more easily than they would be in the case of almost any other country, in consequence of the saving habits of the French people. The difficulties that have to be faced are as nothing compared with those which had to be faced after the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Still, they will be serious difficulties, and we ought not to expect that France will get over them for many months, and perhaps for a year or two to come. Meanwhile, however, it may be considered, apparently, that the crisis itself is over. What will happen next will probably be a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathy with the fall in the “rubbish” which has occurred. But the very discredit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 5-6, 1882.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

To-morrow (Tuesday), the Parliamentary Session of 1882 will begin, to the great relief of the public mind and to the clear advantage of political discussion. The Message in which the Queen will communicate to the two Houses in general terms the policy of the Government can hardly be expected to dispel lingering doubts, or to raise novel questions. It has rarely happened that the course of events has so plainly marked out the main lines of Ministerial conduct. For weeks and even months past it has been made widely known that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues intend, before proceeding with any further legislative reforms, to take in hand the improvement of the rules of the House of Commons. The measures to the enactment of which the improved machinery is to be in the first instance applied, have also been designated, not only in Ministerial speeches during the recess, but by the history of former efforts and of reiterated pledges. Moreover, the imperious necessities of time and space exclude from the scope of Ministerial policy some projects of the highest importance and of extreme complexity, with which it would be impossible to deal in a Session partially devoted to other objects. The work which it will be practicable to undertake when the reform of the Parliamentary rules has been carried—as, it is one shape or another, it certainly will be—is not without its own value, but it cannot be thought likely to promote feverish excitement. A Bankruptcy Bill, a County Government Bill, a Municipal Bill, or a London Bill will not make the coming Session a memorable and stirring one. It is, however, satisfactory that political parties should come down to the level of the popular wishes, which at present are decidedly turning in favour of domestic legislation of a sober and steadily progressive character. It is evident that, in spite of the sensational attractions of foreign affairs and the incessant pressure of Irish agitation, the mass of the English people are unwilling that safe and moderate progress at home should be balked or delayed. Public men, whatever their party connexions or their position in political life, ought to be forward to show that they are ready to foster and to co-operate with this movement of popular feeling. It is not to the interest of any party or any statesman that the labours of Parliament should be doomed to sterility. The late Government, as well as the present, had to complain that many of its best efforts were defeated through the operation of causes which a judicious reform of procedure would mitigate, if not remove. We may assume that the Ministerial policy, so far as it is concerned with legislative measures, must be confined within the general limits we have pointed out. If there be still room for speculative ingenuity, it is in regard to those questions which politicians and the country at large would alike be glad to be able to banish from their thoughts, but which return and insist on obtaining a hearing and an answer. It is not difficult to conjecture what the Government will say in the Royal Message about the reform of the Parliamentary rules and the ordinary measures of the Session. We enter upon a far more doubtful matter when we inquire what is to be said about the state of Ireland, and still more, about the complication in Egypt. The former of these two perplexing questions will, no doubt, be fully discussed and examined in the debates upon the Address. But there must be some general account of the situation in the speech from the Throne. The operation and the effects of the Land Act have now become subject to legitimate criticism, and the time is at hand when either the Government must show that lawlessness in its various forms has been put down, or must make a dangerous confession of failure. We believe, from what we learn from various sources, that the Government will be able to point with hope and encouragement to many symptoms of an improving state of things. But it will not be pretended that the struggle is over and the danger at an end. The recent prosecutions at the Winter Assizes have revealed the extent and the vigour of the organization which the Land League appears to have taken over, in commercial phrase, "as a going concern," from Fenianism. The "no rent" epidemic, expelled from some districts by the strict enforcement of legal process, breaks out anew in others. The Government, however, has begun to make the lawless feel that the game they are playing is a perilous one. We are thoroughly convinced that if the Irish Executive is allowed to hold firmly and courageously to the course entered upon four months ago, the masses in Ireland will rally to the cause of law and order, which is, after all, their own. We have no reason to doubt that Mr. Forster will persevere with and will carry through the task which has been imposed upon him by events. The clamour of sentimentalists, in Parliament or out of it, as well as the appeals of those politicians who have to cast an eye sideways at the Irish vote in their constituencies, ought not for a moment to be allowed to interfere with what Liberal and Conservative statesmen have united in declaring to be the paramount duty of a civilised State. The condition of foreign affairs in general will

probably be dismissed with slight notice in the Queen's Speech. But there is one subject on which a declaration, or at least an indication, of Ministerial policy will be expected with interest and even anxiety. The position in which the Joint Note apparently placed the two Western Powers in regard to the preservation of the *status quo* in Egypt was, no doubt, open to many objections; but it was, or seemed to be, at all events, intelligible and unmistakable. It was universally understood to mean that France and England would not allow the *status quo* to be seriously menaced either by the overthrow of the Khedive's Government or the repudiation of the European Control, and that their determination would, if necessary, be supported by force. The language used by semi-official journals in Paris renders it impossible to doubt that public opinion in France is not inclined to adhere to the policy of the Joint Note, and that the new Ministry may be regarded as having practically abandoned it. It may be anticipated that Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone will endeavour to show that the Joint Note did not commit this country to engagements in which our allies are unwilling to bear their part, and we do not contend that some such explanation may not be plausibly put forward, although clearly the Joint Note was construed as the public in this country have construed it by the other Powers. However this may be, it is manifest that if the policy of the Joint Note—as commonly understood—is to be dropped, something must be substituted for it. The situation bristles with difficulties, but it is indispensable to decide upon some course. The present uncertainty cannot fail to create further embarrassments, if it be permitted to endure, by exciting ambitious hopes both in Egypt and at Constantinople. The one point upon which French opinion appears to be determined is that the assistance of the Sultan shall not be invoked to restore order in Egypt. It is suspected that this idea has been encouraged by other Powers, but the encouragement can hardly be serious. While, however, the supposed agreement between France and England is reduced to an unmeaning exercise of diplomatic skill in playing with phrases, the situation in Egypt is in danger of developing new and worse difficulties every day. It would be some guarantee of safety and stability if the Government were to make it plain that it has a policy, and one which can be revealed in ordinary language to the apprehension of ordinary men.—*Times*.

THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday:—

It is obvious to everybody at all conversants with Egyptian politics that the new Ministry is the Ministry not of Parliament, but of Arabi Bey. The President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior is Arabi's old official chief, Mahmoud Pacha Sami. He was Minister of War and Marine in the late Cabinet; Arabi Bey, being so to speak, Under-Secretary of State in the same department. Arabi Bey himself now takes the office lately held by Mahmoud Pacha Sami, and has thus virtually secured the official as well as the practical control of the army. The Minister of Finance, Ali Pacha Sadyk, was the native administrator of the Egyptian Government Railway. One of the most interesting personages in the new Cabinet is Mahmoud Bey Felemy, who is chief of the Department of Public Works. He is a man of proved capacity, and it may be remembered that he was the military engineer who constructed the fortifications at Varna during the Russo-Turkish war. The other Ministers, Mustapha Pacha Felemy (Public Instructor), and Hassan Pacha Clerc (Religious Domains), are not so well known to fame.

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His Highness fully recognises the suzerainty of Turkey, and is now, as he has ever been, a loyal vassal of the Sultan's. At the same time, he is fully resolved to keep his engagements to England, France, and the European Powers faithfully and to the letter. He earnestly hopes that the Powers will all exercise a little patience and moderation until the new Ministry have had a fair chance of proving their mettle, and until they have shown what course they mean to pursue. Precipitate action by one or more of the Powers would, he considers, have just now results, and would lead to grave complications, beyond the power of man to ward off. The new Cabinet acquiesces in the decision of the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the voting of the Budget, in spite of the opposition offered by England and France. Some arrangement or compromise is, however, thought may be effected which, in any event, it is generally considered that England and France would show wisdom in, at least, giving the new Ministry a fair trial, and in refraining from needlessly embarrassing them at the outset of their career.

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PARIS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

probably be dismissed with slight notice in the Queen's Speech. But there is one subject on which a declaration, or at least an indication, of Ministerial policy will be expected with interest and even anxiety.

The position in which the Joint Note apparently placed the two Western Powers in regard to the preservation of the *status quo* in Egypt was, no doubt, open to many objections; but it was, or seemed to be, at all events, intelligible and unmistakable.

It was universally understood to mean that France and England would not allow the *status quo* to be seriously menaced either by the overthrow of the Khedive's Government or the repudiation of the European Control, and that their determination would, if necessary, be supported by force.

The language used by semi-official journals in Paris renders it impossible to doubt that public opinion in France is not inclined to adhere to the policy of the Joint Note, and that the new Ministry may be regarded as having practically abandoned it.

It may be anticipated that Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone will endeavour to show that the Joint Note did not commit this country to engagements in which our allies are unwilling to bear their part, and we do not contend that some such explanation may not be plausibly put forward, although clearly the Joint Note was construed as the public in this country have construed it by the other Powers.

However this may be, it is manifest that if the policy of the Joint Note—as commonly understood—is to be dropped, something must be substituted for it.

The situation bristles with difficulties, but it is indispensable to decide upon some course.

The present uncertainty cannot fail to create further embarrassments, if it be permitted to endure, by exciting ambitious hopes both in Egypt and at Constantinople.

The one point upon which French opinion appears to be determined is that the assistance of the Sultan shall not be invoked to restore order in Egypt.

It is suspected that this idea has been encouraged by other Powers, but the encouragement can hardly be serious.

While, however, the supposed agreement between France and England is reduced to an unmeaning exercise of diplomatic skill in playing with phrases, the situation in Egypt is in danger of developing new and worse difficulties every day.

It would be some guarantee of safety and stability if the Government were to make it plain that it has a policy, and one which can be revealed in ordinary language to the apprehension of ordinary men.—*Times*.

Among the educational officers will be Mr. Croft, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal; Professor Deighton, of Agra; Mr. Jacob, Bombay; and Mr. Browning, Director of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces.

The Missionary Societies will be strongly represented by Mr. Blackett, Anglican, principal of the Church Missionary Society Institution; Mr. Miller, Presbyterian, principal of the Christian College, Madras; and a Roman Catholic not yet nominated.

The Commission will be, first, to inquire into the action of the educational despots from 1854 to 1868 and how far the educational policy prescribed by the Home Government has been carried out by the various local administrations; secondly, to inquire more especially how far primary education has

access, from where we might at any moment either flood or blow up the tunnel, be so certain a means of preventing its use for an invasion that no commander would think of risking the lives of his troops in the main tunnel?"

Sir Garnet: "That is answered by the fact that the danger really to be feared is an attack in the nature of a surprise whilst the country is in a state of profound peace. I regard such an attack as a very possible thing. The history of our capture of the Danish fleet, and our capture of Copenhagen in 1807, illustrate what I mean, and that the danger is a real

"Would you, as a military commander, Sir Garnet, send troops into a tunnel of that kind, knowing what means might be taken by our enemies for their destruction?"

Sir Garnet: "I would not send a large number of troops into a tunnel until I had possession of it. Once in possession of it an army could quickly and safely be sent through the tunnel. Now, as to obtaining possession of such a tunnel, any Government possessing a large army would think nothing of risking the lives of two thousand men to secure the control of it. Everything connected with the tunnel would be as well known to others as to ourselves. The sources of danger are in a measure shown when it is recollected that the tunnel would be a company affair, and that the scrip or stock might almost entirely end in French hands, and that they could practically do as they chose with the working arrangements. Under these circumstances it would be impossible to keep secret from the people who worked the railway the devices for the destruction of the tunnel, or prevent a surprise being effected that would render worthless all our precautions. The troops that took possession of the Dover end of the tunnel would simultaneously take control of all the approaches to the tunnel. The danger I estimate is that we would occur suddenly, and without our receiving any previous warning whatever. At Copenhagen our Minister was actually in that capital and engaged in the most friendly terms with the authorities when our fleet appeared and demanded possession of the Danish fleet. It was a necessity, and we had to do what we did then; but, at the same time, it is a good instance of what may be done by surprise. The tunnel, however, is not built yet, and should not be, merely to save travellers the discomfort of a Channel trip! Why not first import the harbour at Calais, and run between Dover and Calais a larger, better, and swifter class of steamers? Besides, even vessels might be constructed so as to run the trains on deck, and convey the passengers across without their having to leave the carriages unless they saw fit to do so."

THE FOG DEMON.

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Certainly they have presented in the last fortnight even more than the customary phenomena:—

We have been visited by red fog and white, black fog and grey; sometimes the City streets have been in almost total darkness throughout the day, sometimes the suburbs have fared the worst, at others the dense mist has come and departed with capricious suddenness. Unfortunately none of the sad results we have accustomed to look for have been absent. Terrible railway disasters, loss of life by drowning in rivers and canals, and other mishaps owing to the same cause have been frequent. The minor misfortunes of being driven about hopelessly for hours by a bewildered coachman, or of wandering on foot for a similar time completely lost in the most familiar places, many dwellers in the metropolis have learned to regard with considerable equanimity. The immediate dangers and misadventures caused by fogs are, however, by no means the most mischievous of these effects. Were it possible to obtain statistics of the number of lives shortened through inhaling the smoke-laden mist the revelation would be startling. Even those in perfect health are sensible of the oppression in breathing produced by the particles of undissolved coal, and liable to those affected or predisposed to any malady of the throat or chest the injurious consequences are incalculable. Many persons find it almost impossible to endure the foggy season in London, owing to which, even in the suburbs, more delicate cage-birds drop and plants perish. Our public buildings, our monuments, our houses, furniture and dress, all are tarnished or destroyed by this mischievous agency, which is all the more intolerable because science has demonstrated that it is removable. Between the white fog of marshy country places and the terrible cloud of dense darkness which is our frequent visitor there exists this great difference—the one is free from, the other is blinded with and largely composed of smoke.—*Morning Post*.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, SATURDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. The Empress Eugénie paid a visit to the Queen. Her Majesty walked and drove with the Princess this morning and went to Osborne Cottage, where her Majesty took leave of the Empress Eugénie, who left for London at twelve o'clock, crossing to Portsmouth in her Majesty's yacht *Alberta*, Captain Thompson. Princess Beatrice, attended by the Lady Biddulph, Miss Nelly, and Lord Charles Fitzroy, accompanied the Empress to Portsmouth, and afterwards returned to Osborne. The Empress's suite consisted of Mme. de Arcos, Mme. de Corvisart, the Due de Basabe, and Baron de Corvisart. Captain Bigge attended the Empress to London. The Hon. Hugh C. Childers, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss Childers, the Right Hon. Lord Justice and Lady Brett, General Sir Garnet and Lady Wodeley, Sir James M'Garel Hogg, and Hon. Lady Hogg, Sir Ernest May, Mr. C. Roundell, M.P., and Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Scott. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone were prevented attending owing to the fog, which also caused other friends to be absent. The bride and bridegroom breakfasted with their friends. The floral decorations were most brilliant, and well composed of two peach hearts entwined with the initials C. A. S. in diamonds, the bridegroom's gift. The bridegroom's bouquet was given by Mr. R. A. Brown as best man. The marriage service was performed by the Rev. F. J. Holland, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, assisted by the Rev. W. Sinclair of St. Stephen's, Westminster, cousin of the bride. The Earl of Dursay gave his sister away. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to Lady Huntingtower's residence, 29, Chestnut-place, to breakfast. Among those present were the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Countess of Dundonald and Lady Elizabeth Cochrane, Lord and Lady Reay, Lord and Lady Tollemae, Hon. Hamilton Tollemae, Lord and Lady Sudley, Hon. Randolph Stewart, the Right Hon. Hugh C. Childers, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss Childers, the Right Hon. Lord Justice and Lady Brett, General Sir Garnet and Lady Wodeley, Sir James M'Garel Hogg, and Hon. Lady Hogg, Sir Ernest May, Mr. C. Roundell, M.P., and Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Scott. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone were prevented attending owing to the fog, which also caused other friends to be absent. The bride and bridegroom breakfasted with their friends. The floral decorations were most brilliant, and well composed of two peach hearts entwined with the initials C. A. S. in diamonds, the bridegroom's gift. The bridegroom's bouquet was given by Mr. R. A. Brown as best man.

SUNDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Hon. Ethel Cadogan. Her Majesty and the Princess attended Divine service at Osborne this morning. The Rev. George Connor, M.A., Vicar of Newport and Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majesty, officiated. The Hon. Horatio Stopford arrived at Osborne yesterday.

THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

Some uneasiness having, it is stated, arisen with regard to the health of the Duchess of Connaught, arrangements were made at the close of last week for the removal of her Royal Highness for a change of air from Bagshot Mansion to Windsor Castle, where a suite of rooms in the Lancaster Tower, on the south side of the palace, had been placed at the disposal of the Duke and Duchess, who were expected to arrive on Monday. For some cause, however, it was suddenly decided the Duchess should be brought to Windsor on Sunday.

On the morning of Sunday, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by Sir William Jenner, physician in ordinary to her Majesty, Dr. Playfair, and the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Egerton, accordingly left Bagshot Park early in the afternoon, the royal carriage consisting of two pair-horse carriages, the first being occupied by the Duke of Connaught and Sir W. Jenner, and the second by the Duchess, lying in a recumbent position, and whose face seemed very pale, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, and Dr. Playfair, the latter sitting by the side of her Royal Highness. On quitting Bagshot the Duke and Duchess drove

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 5-6, 1882.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

To-morrow (Tuesday), the Parliamentary Session of 1882 will begin, to the great relief of the public mind and to the clear advantage of political discussion. The Message in which the Queen will communicate to the two Houses in general terms the policy of the Government can hardly be expected to dissipate lingering doubts, or to raise novel questions. It has rarely happened that the course of events has so plainly marked out the main lines of Ministerial conduct. For weeks and even months past it has been made widely known that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues intend, before proceeding with any further legislative reforms, to take in hand the improvement of the rules of the House of Commons. The measures to the enactment of which the improved machinery is to be in the first instance applied, have also been designated, not only in Ministerial speeches during the recess, but by the history of former efforts and of reiterated pledges. Moreover, the imperious necessities of time and space exclude from the scope of Ministerial policy some projects of the highest importance and of extreme complexity, with which it would be impossible to deal in a Session partially devoted to other objects. The work which it will be practicable to undertake when the reform of the Parliamentary rules has been carried—as, in it one shape or another, it certainly will be—is not without its own value, but it cannot be thought likely to promote feverish excitement. A Bankrupt Bill, a County Government Bill, a Municipality of London Bill will not make the coming Session a memorable and stirring one. It is, however, satisfactory that political parties should come down to the level of the popular wishes, which at present are decidedly turning in favour of domestic legislation of a sober and steadily progressive character. It is evident, that, in spite of the sensational attractions of foreign affairs and the incessant pressure of Irish agitation, the mass of the English people are unwilling that safe and moderate progress at home should be balked or delayed. Public men, whatever their party connexions or their position in political life, ought to be forward to show that they are ready to foster and to co-operate with this movement of popular feeling. It is not to the interest of any party or any statesman that the labours of Parliament should be doomed to sterility. The late Government, as well as the present, had to complain that many of its best efforts were defeated through the operation of causes which a judicious reform of procedure would mitigate, if not remove. We may assume that the Ministerial policy, so far as it is concerned with legislative measures, must be confined within the general limits we have pointed out. If there be still room for speculative ingenuity, it is in regard to those questions which politicians and the country at large would alike be glad to be able to banish from their thoughts, but which return and insist on obtaining a hearing and an answer. It is not difficult to conjecture what the Government will say in the Royal Message about the reform of the Parliamentary rules and the ordinary measures of the Session. We enter upon a far more doubtful matter when we inquire what is to be said about the state of Ireland, and, still more, about the complication in Egypt. The former of these two perplexing questions will, no doubt, be fully discussed and examined in the debates upon the Address. But there must be some general account of the situation in the Speech from the Throne. The operation and the effects of the Land Act have now become subject to legitimate criticism, and the time is at hand when either the Government must show that lawlessness in its various forms has been put down, or must make a dangerous confession of failure. We believe, from what we learn from various sources, that the Government will be able to point with hope and encouragement to many symptoms of an improving state of things. But it will not be contended that the struggle is over and the danger at an end. The recent prosecutions at the Winter Assizes have revealed the extent and the vigour of the organization which the Land League appears to have taken over, in commercial phrase, "as a going concern," from Fenianism. The "no rent" epidemic, expelled from some districts by the strict enforcement of legal process, breaks out anew in others. The Government, however, has begun to make the lawless feel that the game they are playing is a perilous one. We are thoroughly convinced that if the Irish Executive is allowed to hold firm and courageously to the course entered upon four months ago, the masses in Ireland will rally to the cause of law and order, which is, after all, their own. We have no reason to doubt that Mr. Forster will persevere with and will carry through the task which has been imposed upon him by events. The clamour of sentimentalists, in Parliament or out of it, as well as the appeals of those politicians who have to cast an eye sideways at the Irish vote in their constituencies, ought not for a moment to be allowed to interfere with what Liberal and Conservative statesmen have united in declaring to be the paramount duty of a civilised State. The condition of foreign affairs in general will probably be dismissed with slight notice in the Queen's Speech. But there is one subject on which a declaration, or at least an indication, of Ministerial policy will be expected with interest and even anxiety. The position in which the Joint Note apparently placed the two Western Powers in regard to the preservation of the *status quo* in Egypt was, no doubt, open to many objections; but it was, or seemed to be, at all events, intelligible and unmistakable. It was universally understood to mean that France and England would not allow the *status quo* to be seriously menaced either by the overthrow of the Khedive's Government or the repudiation of the European Control, and that their determination would, if necessary, be supported by force. The language used by semi-official journals in Paris renders it impossible to doubt that public opinion in France is not inclined to adhere to the policy of the Joint Note, and that the new Ministry may be regarded as having practically abandoned it. It may be anticipated that Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone will endeavour to show that the

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Supreme Government will be the Viceroy with regard to the reform under consideration. Among the distinguished natives will be the Honourable Maharajah Jodhana Mohun Tajore, the Honourable Bhundeb Moo, and others, on behalf of the Hindus; and the Honourable Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, on behalf of the Mussulmans.

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Mr. Miller, Presbyterian, principal of the Christian College, Madras;

and a Roman Catholic not yet nominated.

The chairman of the Commission will be, first, to inquire into the action of the educational despatches from 1854 to 1868 and how far the educational policy prescribed by the Home Government has been carried out by the various local administrations;

secondly, to inquire more especially how far primary education has been given to the people under those despatches and to suggest means whereby vernacular education can be made more universal;

thirdly, to devise means for this extension at a minimum cost to the State by setting free, if possible, funds which are now

devoted to higher education, and by substituting a grant in aid of the system for direct Government support;

fourthly, to offer every encouragement to native gentlemen to establish and support schools on a grant in aid of the system;

fifthly, to ascertain how far it will be possible for the Government to hand over under proper guarantees its own schools and colleges to bodies of native gentlemen who will undertake to manage them as aided institutions;

sixthly, to endeavour to supplement the results obtained by enlisting the municipalities in the work of primary education and by a large extension of the vernacular schools at the municipal cost and under municipal control.

The development of indigenous schools will also form a special subject of inquiry.

The Commission will also be directed to make suggestions as to the better training of teachers,

the improvement of the present system of inspection,

the extension of female education, and as to a more intelligent system of statistical returns on a uniform basis;

also as to the preparation of a great series of texts for the use of the schools throughout India.

The first meeting will be held on Friday.

The Commission will sit till April, when the members will disperse to their own duties till the next cold season.

In the interval, Mr. Hunter, as president, will visit the different provincial governments locally at work, collecting information on specific points, and making such local inquiries as the Commission may deem necessary.

Orders have been issued carrying into effect the policy announced in the last Budget with reference to the sum of a million and a half to be provided annually as insurance against famine.

The sum, instead of being appropriated as a surplus receipt for subsequent appropriation, will be treated as a fixed portion of the normal expenditure of each year.

Relief of actual famine will be a fixed charge on the whole amount.

Protective works will be the next charge, but only to the extent of three quarters of a million, or such portion thereof as may remain after the relief of actual famine.

The remaining three-quarters of a million will be assigned to the reduction of the debt.

A Commission for the reduction of the debt will be appointed, consisting of one high

Government official as *ex officio* member, with one European and one native non-official member.

It will have no independent authority, but will perform consultative and auditing functions only.

The Budget is expected early in March.

It seems certain that Major Baring will announce a handsome surplus and reduction of the duties on gray piece-goods as well as the retention, if not extension, of the licence-tax.

Such a result will not be considered satisfactory.

The licence-tax is almost as detested as the income-tax, and if the Government

cannot afford to lose both that impost and the cotton duties, then the general verdict in this country will be that these duties should be retained some time longer and the licence-tax swept away.

Many authorities, too, hold the opinion that the abolition of the export duty on rice is a matter of more urgency than the relaxation of the import duties.

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The sum, instead of being appropriated as a surplus receipt for subsequent appropriation, will be treated as a fixed portion of the normal expenditure of each year.

Relief of actual famine will be a fixed charge on the whole amount.

Protective works will be the next charge, but only to the extent of three quarters of a million, or such portion thereof as may remain after the relief of actual famine.

The remaining three-quarters of a million will be assigned to the reduction of the debt.

A Commission for the reduction of the debt will be appointed, consisting of one high

Government official as *ex officio* member, with one European and one native non-official member.

It will have no independent authority, but will perform consultative and auditing functions only.

The Budget is expected early in March.

It seems certain that Major Baring will announce a handsome surplus and reduction of the duties on gray piece-goods as well as the retention, if not extension, of the licence-tax.

Such a result will not be considered satisfactory.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 7-8, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There is now, we fear, no issue but for Northampton to remain content with only half its representation in the House of Commons until an Act of Parliament has been passed clearly conferring the right of affirmation on persons in Mr. Bradlaugh's position. This is no doubt the true solution of the whole question, and if it had been firmly grasped at the outset it is probable that far less time would have been wasted in unseemly and undignified wrangles over Mr. Bradlaugh, while it is certain that the time actually occupied would have been much more profitably spent. An offer was made on Tuesday on behalf of Mr. Bradlaugh by his colleague in the representation of Northampton, which, if it could have been accepted, might sooner or later provide a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Labouchere put the case of his colleague in a temperate and sensible fashion, and proposed that Sir Stafford Northcote's motion should be withdrawn on condition that a bill should forthwith be introduced for dealing with the subject. It is obvious, however, as Sir S. Northcote pointed out, that no such direct bargain could be entered into, although he spoke with some encouragement of the method of proceeding by legislation. It is clear enough that this is now the only possible solution. We cannot but regret, as we have always regretted, that the question was ever raised. It has been a perplexity to every one and brought credit to none. Even on Tuesday the Government seems to have learnt little wisdom from its former experience in the matter. If, instead of raising a doubtful speculative issue Mr. Gladstone had treated the whole matter broadly on its merits, had dwelt on the scandal of leaving such a pitiful question open for so long, on the mischievous interruption to public business, and on the undeserved and impolitic prominence given to Mr. Bradlaugh and his opinions—if he had made an appeal to the Opposition on grounds of this kind he would at least have occupied a stronger and more dignified position, even though the decision of the House remained unchanged. It is, indeed, very much to be regretted that any question in the nature of a religious test should have been raised over the oath of allegiance, though it must be admitted that Mr. Bradlaugh himself is mainly responsible for raising it. The oath was never imposed directly for religious purposes, as were former oaths which excluded Catholics. The case of a person wholly devoid of such a belief as would give a meaning to the theistic invocation of the oath was probably not contemplated when the formula was drawn up. It was meant for a declaration of allegiance which would be acceptable to the conscience of all men. Now that it has proved to operate as a religious test the only logical course is to legalise the alternative of affirmation. There are probably few members of the House of Commons, except Mr. Newdegate, who attach any superior validity to a pro-missory oath as compared with an affirmation to the same effect. But as some persons may object to take the oath, and as the House of Commons may refuse to administer it to others, it is clearly desirable to permit the alternative in all such cases. This is the plain issue now before the House, but in the present condition of public business it may be some time yet before it takes a legislative shape. Mr. Bradlaugh, if he is well-advised, will await the result with such patience as he can command. Catholics and Jews had to wait a long time for their emancipation, and the constituency of Northampton must console itself with the reflection that the City of London itself had to wait eleven years before one of its representatives was elected to seat his. —Times.

Bradlaugh to suggest to the House of Commons the way in which he could most conveniently to himself be relieved of the consequences of his own act. Yet it does follow that the Government were justified in ignoring, as they did, Mr. Bradlaugh's alternative. It would seem, from the tranquil manner in which he vanished from the scene on Tuesday, that he has no wish to provoke a contest with the House. Mr. Bradlaugh did nothing more than remind the Government of what last Session they had indicated their willingness to do. Let them, he said, in effect, introduce and carry a measure enabling all members to substitute at will an affirmation for the oath, and he would be content. He would not even ask that such a Bill should be retrospective in its operation. If the House would only pass it, he would apply for the Chiltern Hundreds, and at once submit himself to the judgment of his Constituents. Whatever of arrogance may be detected in such a suggestion, there is a certain honesty about it, and it deserved at least the recognition of the Prime Minister.

The *Daily News* observes:—The majority of Tuesday would have voted as they did, no matter how clearly the case might have been made out against them. Mr. Glegg, in "The Mill on the Floss," tied his cravat on a principle higher than that of personal comfort. The Opposition adjusted their action all through the Bradlaugh controversy on some principle higher, we presume, than that of mere public policy or political dignity. Tuesday's debate was laid to the prospect of local self-government for the counties, and he agreed with her Majesty's Ministers in thinking that the question of the municipal government of London should be dealt with. As to Ireland, he was glad to hear the confident hope uttered by Lord Fingal, whose knowledge of that country was so much superior to his.

Lord WENLOCK, in seconding the motion, entered rather more into detail than the mover as to the various passages in the Speech from the Throne. He expressed much satisfaction at the statement made by His Majesty's Government in Afghanistan, and expressed a hope that the basis had been laid for a permanently good understanding with the Boers and the natives of the Transvaal. Turning to home matters, he was glad to hail the prospect of local self-government for the counties, and he agreed with her Majesty's Ministers in thinking that the question of the municipal government of London should be dealt with. As to Ireland, he was glad to hear the confident hope uttered by Lord Fingal, whose knowledge of that country was so much superior to his.

Lord SALISBURY thought that the mover and seconder of the Address had shown much good sense in the brevity of their addresses. No doubt both noble lords had felt that the less said about the statements in the Royal Speech the better. Having highly eulogised the character of Prince Leopold, the noble marquis intimated that, though they would not press the matter on that occasion, the Opposition looked with anxiety for explanations from her Majesty's Government as to the extension of our interference with Egypt from a financial to a political character. There had been an impression that our interference had assumed a menacing character, but there were now rumours that anything of that kind had been disavowed by her Majesty's Government. He trusted we should go with France in respect of the affairs of Egypt only to such an extent as would leave us in no wise interested in Egyptian affairs. We should beware of anything which threatened our route to India while Russia was at the portals of Herat. Ridiculing the passage in the Royal Speech about the effects of the weather on the crops, he asked the Government why they had not gone further and announced that the London fog had been very destructive of furniture. In reference to Ireland, he observed that since the prostration of a great transformation had occurred in Ireland. During the progress of the Land Bill both Houses of Parliament were swelled by the adhesion of the landlords, who voted in a body against the Government. This good service was rewarded, explaining the increased majority, some of the Irish members having voted the other way when previously the same resolution was brought before the House.

In the division on Mr. Gray's motion in the House of Commons on Tuesday night the following Liberals and Conservatives voted in the minority:—Mr. Thomas M. Cowen, Mr. Storey, Mr. Gourley, Capt. Aylmer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dawney, Mr. Cohen, Mr. R. N. Fowler, Mr. Burt, Mr. Collings, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Labouchere.

We understand that reports with reference to outrages on the Jews in Russia have been received from the British Consuls at Warsaw and Odessa, and that her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has also made some inquiries into the subject.

We hear that Mr. Gladstone has declined to receive a deputation on the opium question.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

It is not expected that the debate on the Address will be concluded before Friday.

The Government have not yet decided what course they will take in respect of the Oath question; but it is probable that after the Proviso resolutions are disposed of they will introduce a bill allowing members to affirm.

A pamphlet, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," which was recently issued by the Irish Land Commission, has been suppressed. It is not yet known how many copies were allowed to get into circulation before its true character was discovered.

The responsibility for the publication of the pamphlet appears primarily to rest with the Secretary to the Commission, who, however, states that he sanctioned its being issued on the recommendation of a leading official, and with many knowledge of its contents.

An inquiry has been instituted at the Standard Office in order to ascertain how it was that the brochure was permitted to pass through that department without some intimation as to its character being conveyed to the Chief Commissioners. It is certainly remarkable that a Government department should have made the instrument for disseminating the very words and doctrines of an illegal organization, the leaders of which are at this moment in Kilmainham Gaol.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatio Stopford. This morning her Majesty walked and drove with Princess Beatrice.

The Duchess of Connaught has continued to improve in health ever since her arrival at Windsor Castle.

The Cheshire Hounds met at Marbury village on Tuesday, but, to the disappointment of many, the Empress of Austria was not present. After finishing with Sir Watkin's hounds on Monday her Majesty had a couple of hours with the draghounds about Combermere Park, which doubtless somewhat fatigued her, and rendered a day's rest necessary. Had she been out on Tuesday, however, she could not have complained of the sport.

The Marquess of Londonderry was prevented by a family affliction from attending the dinner at the Marquess of Salisbury's on Monday evening, and from being present at the opening of Parliament.

Lord North arrived in town on Tuesday from Han's Hall, Minsterworth, for the opening of Parliament.

Colonel Hon. W. P. and Lady Emma Talbot and Miss Talbot have arrived at 15, Cromwell-road, for the season.

The Earl of Lonsdale died at a quarter-past one on Wednesday morning at his residence, 14, Carlton House-terrace. Lord Lonsdale was in his twenty-seventh year. He succeeded his father as fourth Earl of Lonsdale in 1876, and in 1878 married Lady Constance Gladys Herbert, sister of the thirteenth Earl of Pembroke. His lordship leaves a daughter, Gladys Mary Juliet, born on April 9, 1881, and is succeeded in his title by his brother Hugh Cecil, who was born on January 25, 1857, and married on June 27, 1878, Lady Grace Cecilia Gordon, sister to the present Marquis of Huntly.

A measure enabling not only Mr. Labouchere's colleague, but any other member of the House, who might subsequently elect to do so, to substitute an affirmation for the oath. Mr. Bradlaugh himself had, indeed, no shadow of a title to pose as one of the high contracting parties. Whatever responsibility there may be for the difficulty in which he is placed belongs to him, and to him alone. He created it when he demurred in the first instance to the customary and solemn formula, and he insulted the intelligence and moral sense of the House when on his re-election for Northampton he demanded that it should ignore his identity. It was, therefore, not for Mr.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

DEBATE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Parliament was opened by commission at 2 o'clock, with the usual formalities.

The House of Lords, having reassembled at 4, Lords Tweeddale, Reay, Hothfield, and Tweedmouth took the oath and their seats. At a quarter-past 3, when the business of the evening commenced, Mr. Bradlaugh, in particular, was not unmoved attendance of peers. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Cambridge were in their places on the cross-benches, and the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Teck were present in the Royal gallery. The peeresses' gallery was almost fully occupied.

Lord FINGAL, in moving the Address in answer to the Queen's Speech, was unusually brief in his comments on the several announcements in the Royal Message. He congratulated the House on the position of our foreign, Indian, and colonial relations, and expressed a hope that the time was approaching when a good understanding would prevail between landlords and tenants in Ireland.

Lord WENLOCK, in seconding the Address, entered rather more into detail than the mover as to the various passages in the Speech from the Throne. He expressed much satisfaction at the statement made by His Majesty's Government in Afghanistan, and expressed a hope that the basis had been laid for a permanently good understanding with the Boers and the natives of the Transvaal.

Turning to home matters, he was glad to hail the prospect of local self-government for the counties, and he agreed with her Majesty's Ministers in thinking that the question of the municipal government of London should be dealt with. As to Ireland, he was glad to hear the confident hope uttered by Lord Fingal, whose knowledge of that country was so much superior to his.

Lord SALISBURY thought that the mover and seconder of the Address had shown much good sense in the brevity of their addresses. No doubt both noble lords had felt that the less said about the statements in the Royal Speech the better.

Having highly eulogised the character of Prince Leopold, the noble marquis intimated that, though they would not press the matter on that occasion, the Opposition looked with anxiety for explanations from her Majesty's Government as to the extension of our interference with Egypt from a financial to a political character.

There had been an impression that our interference had assumed a menacing character, but there were now rumours that anything of that kind had been disavowed by her Majesty's Government. He trusted we should go with France in respect of the affairs of Egypt only to such an extent as would leave us in no wise interested in Egyptian affairs.

In reference to Ireland, he observed that since the prostration of a great transformation had occurred in Ireland. During the progress of the Land Bill both Houses of Parliament were swelled by the adhesion of the landlords, who voted in a body against the Government.

This good service was rewarded, explaining the increased majority, some of the Irish members having voted the other way when previously the same resolution was brought before the House.

In the division on Mr. Gray's motion in the House of Commons on Tuesday night the following Liberals and Conservatives voted in the minority:—Mr. Thomas M. Cowen, Mr. Storey, Mr. Gourley, Capt. Aylmer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dawney, Mr. Cohen, Mr. R. N. Fowler, Mr. Burt, Mr. Collings, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Labouchere.

We understand that reports with reference to outrages on the Jews in Russia have been received from the British Consuls at Warsaw and Odessa, and that her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has also made some inquiries into the subject.

We hear that Mr. Gladstone has declined to receive a deputation on the opium question.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

It is not expected that the debate on the Address will be concluded before Friday.

The Government have not yet decided what course they will take in respect of the Oath question; but it is probable that after the Proviso resolutions are disposed of they will introduce a bill allowing members to affirm.

A pamphlet, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," which was recently issued by the Irish Land Commission, has been suppressed. It is not yet known how many copies were allowed to get into circulation before its true character was discovered.

The responsibility for the publication of the pamphlet appears primarily to rest with the Secretary to the Commission, who, however, states that he sanctioned its being issued on the recommendation of a leading official, and with many knowledge of its contents.

An inquiry has been instituted at the Standard Office in order to ascertain how it was that the brochure was permitted to pass through that department without some intimation as to its character being conveyed to the Chief Commissioners. It is certainly remarkable that a Government department should have made the instrument for disseminating the very words and doctrines of an illegal organization, the leaders of which are at this moment in Kilmainham Gaol.

Lord GRANVILLE commended by concurring with Lord Salisbury in what he had said about Prince Leopold. He next proceeded to reply to the strictures of the noble marquis on the Irish policy of the Government. He charged Lord Salisbury and his party in England with having, by their language, obstructed the working of the Land Bill, which they had assisted in passing, and with exaggerating the condition of affairs in Ireland, which was sufficiently bad in itself. He denied that the strictures were not well founded, and repudiated the imputation that the Government had obtained the sanction of Parliament to the Land Bill by false pretences. He asked whether, if Parliament had known that the general average of rents in Ireland was higher than had been supposed in this country, that would have prevented it from giving its sanction to the bill. The noble marquis explained his opposition to the bill, and declared that it was not for the sake of the landlords that he had voted for it, but for the sake of the people, with a gradual improvement in their condition, all of which objects the Government proposed to effect in a friendly manner, and in agreement with the powers of Europe.

The Duke of SOMERSET expressed his opinion that the question in Ireland was not one of rents, but one of open rebellion, which the Government had taken no effectual measures to suppress.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Business commenced in the House of Commons at four o'clock, when all parts of it from the floor to the roof were densely crowded. As the Speaker took the chair, after the new writ for Westminster had been moved, he called for the new members desiring to take their seats to come to the table. Nine of the members elected during the recess—Mr. Salt, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Bulwer, Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Raikes, Mr. Jerningham, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Dawney, and Mr. Asher—accordingly came forward and took the oath in the usual form, Mr. Raikes and Mr. J. Lowther in particular being loudly cheered.

MR. BRADLAUGH.

After this Mr. Bradlaugh, who had been standing at the Bar, advanced to the table, and was apparently about to take the New Testament in his hand,

appear to have been supported by more than two hundred members, or to have been opposed by less than forty members.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT, BEFORE PUBLIC BUSINESS.

2. That no motion be made, except by leave of the House, before the Orders of the Day, or Notices of Motion have been entered upon.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9—10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOUTRE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regulating the procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it; it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerial journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impede legislation are in themselves a great evil, the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship.

To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-eight are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority need be no larger, for two hundred and one would still be enough. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine, and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the Rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man: and what is really the final cause of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist.

Now, we must remind the country that this particular polity, which it is the boast of Englishmen to have matured, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven rules which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bind private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the material or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few of the bleak and gloomy weeks of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, from March till immediately after Easter, that is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of a British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise the little tour could scarcely be looked upon as a refreshing or repositional holiday. The wish to escape from notice, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others suf-

ficiently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

Lord LONGFELLOW moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

Lord MONKTON, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony to that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service.

Lord CARLISLE said there would be no objection to the production of the letter; but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm."

The motion was agreed to.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The DUKE OF SOMERSET asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

Lord GRANVILLE thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathised with the victims of oppression wherever the latter might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be confined to a case in which the victim was of the Jewish race, but as soon as he got convinced that by any such matter, we were precluded from that by the fact, we did not permit such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official interference. As to private and confidential representations, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit and suitable opportunity of making them; but public comments on those representations would, of course, entirely change their character. Our consuls had communicated the facts which had come to their knowledge, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

Lord SALISBURY concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to these outrages would be of very doubtful utility.

Lord SHAFESBURY was of the same opinion; but thought the few words said on the subject that evening would do good in the cause of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Procedure Resolutions were brought forward he would oppose the first, which relates to the *closure*.

On the same subject Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate he would move a *closure* of the House. Mr. A. Balfour gave notice that he will move to defer the *closure* resolution until the others are disposed of, and Mr. Marriott, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter-resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty had been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Councillor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood, a G.C.M.G., and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to these honours, the dignity of a G.C.M.G. has been accepted by President Brand, subject to the consent of the Viceroy.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Sergeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages inflicted on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. Dawson, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out some of the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molley went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confided to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Empire. Mr. O'Sullivan maintained that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a state.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS. (From the "STANDARD.")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring upon Lord Carlingford the honour of Knighthood of the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan.

We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, and that they are privately exerting themselves to induce the Government to make it less stringent in its character.

Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the pamphlet to which attention has been drawn in these columns, has resigned his office.

The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel we understand, he referred to the Special Committee, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(From the "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dilke intends to move that the number of Standing Committees proposed shall be increased from two to five, and that the new Committees shall deal respectively with the Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dilley will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee.

If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committees rooms upstairs to be temporarily thrown into one by means of a movable partition.

It will be observed that the rules of procedure of which Mr. Gladstone has given notice makes no provision for dealing with the modern extension of what is known as the question-hour. It is probable that an attempt will be made to remedy this omission by an amendment.

Another matter left unprovided for is the question of vexatious counting, which so far as the session has gone has been of nightly occurrence, as it was last session.

The attention of the House will also be called to this master by an amendment, moved by a private member.

We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government.

The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

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the very core of our season of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera.

Mr. FORSTER commenced his defence of his administration by confessing that he had been compelled to put his exceptional powers into execution more largely than he had expected; but he had no alternative unless he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. He said that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people to conform to their orders. Of these practices Mr. Forster related some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to allow the Land League to suppress itself as far as it could.

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NICE:—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9-10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOUTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regulating the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerial journalists, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impede legislation are in themselves a great evil, the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-eight are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority need be no larger, for two hundred and one would still be enough. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine, and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man: and what is really the final cause of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular polity, which it is the boast of Englishmen to have matured, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven rules which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by political distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the mental or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few of the bleak and gloomy weeks of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, from March till immediately after Easter, that is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise up to a refreshment or reposeful holiday. The wish to escape from notice, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others suf-

ficiently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unusual in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirits and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, mere existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary suspicion. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Monaco is wicked. But whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which wander from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has cooperated with her as far as in lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He need not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most risk their luck at the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or very often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently upwards crowned with their rock-built villages, and behind all rise the snowy Maritime Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed to gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half-an-hour, would not have paid so dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gain-said. England is a very good place to go away from in the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate [and for some Americans] the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense than personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the sojourner at Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even unusual abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the vegetation almost tropical in character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they will, as is the nation's cordial hope, give the Queen the perfect rest and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring upon Lord Carlingford the honour of Knighthood of the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan.

We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, and that they have invited exerting themselves to remove the Government to make it less obnoxious in its character.

Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the pamphlet to which attention has been drawn in these columns, has resigned his office.

The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel will, we understand, be referred to a Special Committee, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dillwyn intends to move that the number of Standing Committees proposed shall be increased from two to five, and that the new Committees shall deal respectively with Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dillwyn will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee.

If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committees upstairs to sit temporarily in the mean time by a means of a movable partition.

Another matter left unprovided for is the practice of vexatious counting, which so far as the session has gone has been of mighty occurrence as it was last session. The attention of the House will also be called to this matter by an amendment, moved by a private member.

We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government.

The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

Lord LONGFORD moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

Lord MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, informed him that the general administration of the Land League had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, but by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER communicated his defense of administration by confessing that he had endeavoured to put his executive powers into execution in a manner which he had expected, but he had no alternative unless he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, by which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. It was not, however, for the advice which he had given that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people, and to their adoption of some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to these arrests, unless they were prepared to allow the Land League to become the real government of Ireland. He admitted that he had been sometimes in error, whenever the latter might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be less in a case in which the victims were of the Jewish race; but as soon as he was convinced in his conscience that that gentleman was guilty of inciting to intimidation he advised the arrests. As to the "treasonable practices," though he believed that an organized attempt to substitute private Courts for the Queen's Courts was a treasonable practice, the arrest of Mr. Parnell was not sufficient to justify such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official interference. As to private and confidential representations, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit any suitable opportunity of making them; but public comments on those representations would, of course, entirely change their character. Our counsels had communicated the facts which had come to their knowledge, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

Lord SALISBURY concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to these outrages would be of very doubtful utility.

Lord SHAFESBURY was of the same opinion; but thought the few words said on the subject that evening would do good in the cause of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULERS OF RENTSES.

Sir S. NORMAN gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Procedure Resolutions were brought forward, he would oppose the first, which related to the *Closure*.

On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. Balfour gave notice that he will move to defer the *Closure* resolution until the others are disposed of, and Mr. Marriott, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Councillor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. V. as a G.C.M.G., and Sir H. de Valera, K.C.M.G., in addition to these honours, the dignity of a G.C.M.G. has been accepted by President Brand, subject to the consent of the Volkstaat.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Sergeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages inflicted on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. Dawson, pointing out the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molloy went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confined to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Empire. Mr. O'Sullivan maintained that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation.

At this point Mr. P. J. SMYTH offered to withdraw his amendment, but the Irish members would not accept this, and Mr. Dawson expressed his regret at this refusal, said with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, while they had been reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were thoroughly alive to its importance. As to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the discussion had revealed great discrepancies between the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of the two Legislatures were to be defined, and local distinguished from Imperial matters.

Mr. E. H. SMYTH thought that the difficulties would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be if Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; and Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections to the Home Rule bill, they were not so great as the objections to the present system.

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Mr. E. H. SMYTH made a bitter personal attack on Mr. Ewart and Mr. Plunket, and thanked the Prime Minister for showing the Irish people the justice and practicability of their scheme. The amendment was then negatived by 93 to 37.

Mr. M'Carthy next moved an amendment of great length, setting forth the action of the Irish Executive under the Coercion Acts, and concluding with a declaration that an immediate abandonment of all coercive measures and the establishment of Constitutional Government in Ireland are essentially necessary for the peace and prosperity of the United Kingdom. Dealing chiefly with the arrest of Mr. Parnell, he read numerous extracts from his speeches since the prorogation to show that he had never advocated the non-payment of rent, nor the rejection of the Land Act. On the contrary, he had re-

commended that it should be tested; he had used his influence invariably in favour of order; and in reference to the "prairie value," for which he had been so much censured, Mr. McCarthy showed that it was not so much the Irish people had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, but by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER communicated his defense of administration by confessing that he was dealing with Lord Clinton that until this matter, he had never had any doubt in the matter. Getting adds that last week, being ill, and having lost all his money by lending it to "Lord A. P. Clinton," he wrote again to Lord Coleridge, reminding him of the previous letter, purporting to come from Lord Coleridge, which so satisfied him that he was dealing with Lord Clinton that until this matter, he had never had any doubt in the matter.

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Galignani's Messenger.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 11—12, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS.

The *Saturday Review* observes:—Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions with reference to the business of the House are unlike the locusts of the Apocalypse in that, whereas the locusts had their sting in the tail, the Resolutions have theirs in the head. There are twelve Resolutions which deal with procedure, and three which deal with Standing Committees, but the first of them, the Resolution which introduces the *closure*, precedes the others in order of importance as much as it does in order of succession. Whatever faults the Resolutions may have they are certainly not milk and water. The first Resolution is obscurely enough worded, but the general intent is sufficiently clear. If carried, it will give the majority for the time being an absolute power of putting an end to debates as the most ardent opponent of "government by public meeting" can desire. It was not to be supposed that Ministers would care to give this right to a mere accidental majority; the majority which they wish to invest with it is their own majority. The provision that the motion "that the question be now put" shall not be decided in the affirmative unless it shall appear to have been supported by more than two hundred members, guards them against any risk of this kind. In an ordinary House, when there has been no special whip on either side, and Ministers might conceivably have their own mouths closed by surprise, the *closure* will have no place, for the majority will not be over 200. But whenever the majority consists of more than 200 members—which is equivalent to saying whenever it is a Ministerial majority—the *closure* in its most naked form becomes the rule. A majority of 201 members may absolutely close the mouths of a minority of 200 members. There is no pretence about a three-fourths or a two-thirds majority. A majority of one is all that is required. The remaining Resolutions show very plainly how highly Mr. Gladstone values the *closure*. A long array of precautions which have from time to time been suggested in order to render the *closure* unnecessary are tacked on to the *closure* as though, in comparison with it, they mattered nothing at all.

The *Spectator* has only three criticisms to make on the proposed New Rules of Procedure, which are, in effect, very like those proposed last year by Mr. Dilwyn, and thoroughly wise and sound in their general scope. The first and most important of these criticisms is—that we think the Government mistaken in throwing on the Speaker or Chairman of Committee the initiative in declaring that, in his opinion, the sense of the House is in favour of a division. In our opinion, it would have been better much to give the Speaker or Chairman rather a veto on the proposal of the Leader of the House to the same effect, than the duty of himself moving in the matter. In our opinion, the duty of proposing that the debate should end, is one the responsibility of which ought clearly to rest on the Leader of the House, for this among other reasons, that he alone is fully aware what the pressure of the public business is, and how urgent a decision of the House may be; and, again, that, if a wrong decision is taken, either upon such evidence as this, or on any other evidence that may be before him, the error committed, if committed by a Minister in the eagerness of administrative duty, would be a much lighter error, and much more excusable, than the same error would be if committed by the Speaker or Chairman, in the interest merely of the dignity and order of the Assembly over which he presides. For this reason, we hold that the Government ought to have the responsibility of proposing the immediate closure of the debate; indeed, only the Government would usually be in possession of all the reasons why a closure is advisable. Moreover, it seems to us very necessary that the Speaker should regard himself as representing the whole House, and should hold that it is his business rather to restrain the eagerness of the Administration itself for a division if, in his opinion, the case of the minority or minorities has not been properly heard, than to propose a division himself. We would, therefore, give the Speaker the right of refusing to put the House a vote for the closure of debate, while we should greatly hesitate to give him the responsibility of declaring that the sense of the House was clearly favourable to it.

Looking at the question in a broad way, urges the *Statist*, such as becomes all who prefer the efficiency of Parliament to the interest of party, we see no reason why the *closure* should not be adopted. It is admitted upon all hands that Parliament of late has been failing in the estimation of the public; that the conduct of its business is not good, and that the interests of the country are suffering because it has no time to devote to measures which are useful, but not partisan; such, for example, as the Criminal Code Bill and the Bankruptcy Bill. We do not deny that at times the *closure* may work injuriously in the hands of a rash or a reactionary Ministry. It may be used to hurry through Parliament Bills which would be condemned were the country given time to consider them. For example, in the case of a disagreement with a foreign State, it is quite possible that some step might be

taken by a Minister having the *closure* at his disposal which would commit the country to far, and leave it no option but war or humiliation; and so also unpopular measures might be adopted in the same way. But, after all, if a Minister is determined enough, and has such a majority at his disposal as would not shrink from imposing the *closure* to give effect to his views, he would be able to carry his policy without the *closure*. All the *closure* would effect would be to enable him to do more speedily what, under the present system, he would do tediously. As for the suggestion that the vesting of the power in the hands of the Speaker guards it from being likely to be abused, we do not ourselves think that there is much weight in it. It is much more probable that the Speaker in future will be slow to press the *closure* than that he will be in a hurry. The responsibility will always rest upon him, and until it is urged to do so by the clear will of a decided majority, it is not probable that he will act.

"HOW TO ROB YOUR LANDLORD."

The *Saturday Review* makes some extracts from the pamphlet recently issued with the sanction of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, and adds:—

These are the statements which, by the staggering and shame-faced confession of the Government, have been made by all the highest officials of that tribunal the absolute impartiality of which they weary the gods by calling them to attest. By the confession of Lord Carlingford and of Mr. Gladstone, the officials of this body, which has such momentous duties to discharge, are either so stupid as not to understand the plain meaning of printed words, so careless as not to trouble themselves about that meaning, or so deeply pledged to the revolutionary cause as to dare to issue practically and almost literally in the Queen's name a laudation of persons whom the Queen's Ministers have thought it necessary to imprison. But some at least of Mr. Gladstone's colleagues and supporters must have perceived the extreme awkwardness of the words they used, and the want of intelligence and haphazard composition (to use no stronger words) of the body to which the fortunes of hundreds of thousands of persons have been committed almost without appeal.

tenderly-written love-tale, called "A Story of a Railway Journey," by Lady Lindsay, of Balcarres. The ground traversed by the lovers in the charming novella was the ground I had just been over myself; and I confess that had not my imaginative spirit had not discovered any element of love in the episodes of a railway journey. That was left for Lady Lindsay to do.

But, long before her Ladyship was born, I remember when there were no railways in Italy at all; when there was no gas in Rome; when the Bible and Murray's Handbooks were impartially confiscated at the Pontifical Custom-house; and when Italy herself was contemptuously styled by statesmen of the Congress of Vienna and the Holy Alliance type "a geographical expression." A tunnel under Mont Cenis! A tunnel beneath St. Gotthard! A railway across the Brenner! What visionaries that madmen would have been who dared to moat such schemes when even such vast judgment and experience as Nelson's and Metternich were dominant in Europe!

It is to be hoped that some good may come out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclast of St. Paul's churchyard. Bird's sculptured group representing Queen Anne looking down on four figures at the respective corners of the pedestal, and supposed to symbolise Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, has long been an eyesore to Wren's majestic basilica, and an architectural scandal to the entire metropolis. It is, besides, in a shameful and hopeless state of dilapidation. I earnestly hope that this "sooty and dingy" group will soon be pulled down by the authorities.

Bird was in great vogue in his day (1667—1731). He worked quickly, boldly, and cheaply, and was in much request for public works. According to Horace Walpole, the performance which first brought Bird into notice was his monument at Westminster to Dr. Busby. The stately pedagogue (you remember that he whipped Sir Roger de Coverley's grandfather) who would not take off his hat when Charles II. visited Westminster School, lest in the event of his having uncovered, the Westminster boys should be induced to believe that there was a Greater Man in England than Dr. Busby. The means by which Bird arrived at the knowledge of Busby's facial appearance were decided odd. The *Plagous Orbitalis* of *Montgomery School* had never permitted his picture to be drawn. The moment he was dead his friends had a coat in plaster taken from his face, and thence a drawing in crayons, from which White engraved his print, and Bird carved his image." A some what circumlocutory process.

I dined, deliberately and with malice aforethought, with the Master, Wardens, and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors at their noble old Hall in Threadneedle-street. I went thither with a special eye towards the recommendations of the National Thrift Society, as formulated by Dr. Benjamin Richardson, to the effect that we are bound to eat and drink "thrifly," by partaking only of the simplest diet, by not drinking of any rich soups or meat dishes, and by wholly abstaining from any fermented beverages. I was hungry, and, owing to having consumed a plateful of turtle, a slice of roast mutton, and four Brussels sprouts. Likewise I ventured upon one glass of dry champagne and half a bottle of Apollinaris. This to some may seem comparatively moderate; but, according to Dr. Richardson's showing, I must have sinned grievously against "thrifliness," first by eating that plateful of turtle, and next by drinking the glass of dry champagne. And surely plain pump water would have been "thriflier" than the Apollinaris.

The Court of the Merchant Taylors have, fortunately, a great many more things to do of besides the graceful dispensation of their sumptuous hospitality; and I was enabled to keep away from the hall in Threadneedle-street, leaving nothing else besides the bill of fare. This something else was the Rules and Regulations of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts for Ladies, established, some ten years since, exclusively at the cost and charges of the Guild, at Bognor, in Sussex. The preamble tranquilly recites that "this Home is established by the Merchant Taylors' Company of the Fraternity of St. John Baptist, for God's glory, and for the benefit of their suffering fellow-creatures. It is intended for the wives, widows, or daughters of gentlemen, who, recovering from sickness, or suffering from the effects of overwork, require rest and sea air to restore them to health. The funds for the maintenance of this charity are entirely provided by the company; the ladies are gratuitously boarded and lodged during a specified time; free rations and lodgings are provided for them, and I believe that I am correct in saying that there is room in the house for more lady convalescents, and that the Clerk of the Company is ready to receive the names of properly-recommended applicants.—G. A. S.

In the *Illustrated London News*.

ARRIVAL OF REFUGEE JEWS IN ENGLAND.

A large number of Jewish refugees, who had escaped over the Russian frontier, arrived in Liverpool from Hamburg on Friday en route to America. They number two hundred and fifty men and women of the agricultural and artisan class, and ninety-five children and infants, and they leave for New York in the American Line steamer *Illinois*. They were received and attended to in Liverpool by representatives of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and their wants were provided for from the Mansion House Relief Fund. In the course of the settlement began in the preceding week, and what it meant to the money market cannot be thoroughly understood unless the figures of a fortnight ago are contrasted with those of last week. Making this comparison, it is found that the private deposits have been run up nearly £15,000,000, as compared with the previous week. But preparations for the French money market by the last Bourse settlement is strikingly illustrated by the figures of the last Bank of France return. By one means or other, but chiefly by aid of the Government, which lent the market nearly £5,000,000, the resources of the public were augmented by over £10,000,000 as compared with the previous week. But preparations for the French money market by the last Bourse settlement is strikingly illustrated by the figures of the last Bank of France return. By one means or other, but chiefly by aid of the Government, which lent the market nearly £5,000,000, the resources of the public were augmented by over £10,000,000 as compared with the previous week. But preparations for the French money market by the last Bourse settlement is strikingly illustrated by the figures of the last Bank of France return. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12-13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOUTURE.

It has been the uniform custom of English Ministers, when the procedure of the House of Commons has been in question, to take the leaders of the Opposition into council and to obtain for any new rules the sanction of both parties. Mr. Bright upbraided Lord Beaconsfield's Government in 1878 for entering the European Conference with shotted guns. It is with a parade of force that the Ministry are about to lay before Parliament the most remarkable innovations in procedure that have ever been proposed. When the project of the *closure* began to assume a practical form in Ministerial speeches during the autumn, more than one Minister intimated that it would be made a question of confidence. Mr. Gladstone, however, did not commit himself to any such position, nor was it conceivable that a statesman of his long experience and his Parliamentary training would be ready to withdraw from the free judgment of the House of Commons proposals deeply affecting the character and the future of the representative system. This, however, must be so, if the Prime Minister's scheme of *closure* is to be forced upon the House of Commons by the menace of a dissolution. The doubts and anxieties which are gathering will not be extinguished, though they may be overborne. It is, indeed, manifest that the changes portended by the proposed plan for closing debates must be far wider in their operation than is admitted by their apologists. It is assumed that should the resolution pass, we shall have to deal simply with the existing state of things modified by the *closure*, under the control of the present Speaker and the present leader of the House. But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely taxed by the fatigues of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if submitted to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions either of the leader of the House or of the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *closure*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of a penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encouraged and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *Président de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *closure* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party unguided by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machine." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "hectograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *closure* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local caucuses, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest party passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an inferno battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. If it were to be agreed upon in accordance with Parliamentary comity between the leaders of both parties the Opposition would not be able to refuse to act up to its spirit and to join in closing debate when the question at issue had been excessively discussed and the continuation of the debate was becoming a public injury. But, coerced and outvoted, the Conservatives will feel in every case that they are acting under duress and menace and that they are under no obligation to the triumphant and overbearing majority. Many dissatisfied Liberals, whether they vote against the *closures* or not, will be influenced in the same way. They will be disposed to show the Speaker as often as possible and as long as possible that the "evident sense" of the House is not in favour of closing debate. It is, indeed, most doubtful whether, under the new rule, the Speaker could in practice be able

to raise the question of *closure* at all, except by straining the language of the resolution in a party sense. It would be certainly a forced interpretation to construe the evident sense of the House as the evident wish of the majority; yet the rule plainly allows this to be done and, according to its advocates, intends it to be done.

THE INSURRECTION IN ARABIA.

The present insurrection in the Arabian province of Yemen threatens to assume serious proportions, and to prove the cause of some trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. A few days ago it was hoped that the worst was over, and that the rising would be promptly suppressed; but the latest news is to the effect that the disaffection has spread beyond the limits of the Vilayet of Yemen, and broken out among the tribes of the Hejaz, between Mecca and Medina. The latter city is garrisoned by only a small force, which is said to be virtually blockaded. Nothing can be done towards the restoration of order, it is admitted, until the arrival of large reinforcements from Turkey, and even the four battalions and guns sent ten days ago will hardly suffice to do more than free Medina from the presence of those who are now menacing it. Although the danger at Medina is urgent, that arising from the defiant attitude of the tribes of Yemen is in reality the more serious. It is also the recurrence of an oft-encountered peril which has at times tasked the strength of the Ottoman Empire so greatly that the Porte has more than once given up the idea of successfully dealing with it. Yemen is the South-west Province of Arabia, and includes within its limits the city of Mocha. The inhabitants are among the most warlike of the Arab tribes, and they have always aspired to maintain their independence of the Sultan, partly on account of their disbelief in his claims to represent the Caliphate, and partly because they preferred a life of unfettered liberty in their own mountainous home. In the year 1635 they emancipated themselves from the Turkish yoke, and were ruled for nearly two centuries and a half by their own Sheikhs. The Turks were obliged to satisfy themselves during that long period with the military occupation of the three Holy Cities, but the caravans of pilgrims from Jeddah to Mecca had repeatedly to fight their way through marauding bands in order to visit the Prophet's Shrine. The establishment of British power at Aden, followed up by the occupation of Perim, and the construction of the Suez Canal, aroused considerable alarm in the minds of the Sultan's advisers as to the security of their hold on the three cities, which alone made the decrees of the Ottoman Sultan pass current throughout the world of Islam. This anxiety might not, perhaps, have led to action on the part of the Porte; but, at this very conjuncture, an Arab Chief committed an outrage that could not be overlooked or pardoned. The Emir of Asir, a district north of Yemen, marched south and seized the harbour of Hodeidah, and thus isolated the small garrison stationed at Mocha. An army was at once sent from Constantinople to punish the offender; and his own territory was rapidly overrun and subjected. Glad of so good an excuse, the Porte then ordered its troops to march into the southern district of Yemen, and to reduce it to obedience. Ghazi Mukhtar, then a lieutenant general, was entrusted with the task, and, despite the valour of the Arabs, the strength of their forts, and the inclemency of the climate, he was completely successful. Within twelve months of his landing at Hodeidah, Yemen was again reduced to the condition of a province of the Sultan, but the expedition involved the sacrifice of four thousand Turkish soldiers. The origin of the present insurrection is not clearly ascertained, but the natives were, no doubt, greatly encouraged to make an attempt to re-assert their independence by the large withdrawal of Turkish troops that took place at the time of the war with Russia. Nor are the objects they have before them much better known, although it is possible that the impulse which has stirred them into action comes from the Nejd Chief, who during these last few years has been gathering into his hands the nucleus of a considerable power.—*Standard*.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, SATURDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Horatio Stopford. Her Majesty walked out this morning with Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold's knee is nearly well, and his Royal Highness will very shortly return. The Queen continues to receive favourable accounts of the Duchess of Connaught, who is making satisfactory progress.

SUNDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Horatio Stopford. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice, and the members of the Royal Household attended Divine service at Osborne this morning. The Rev. Canon Prothero officiated.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princesses Louise, Victoria and Maud went to a grand military assault-at-arms at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with the members of the Savage Club at Willis's Room on Saturday evening.

Baron de Shaeffer, Austro-Hungarian Minister to Washington, and the Hon. E. Allen, United States senator, were amongst the passengers on the Cunard steamer *Servia* which sailed from Liverpool on Saturday for New York. The *Servia* is on board an unusually numerous company of passengers for this season of the year.

The Earl of Dunraven arrived in Queens-

town on Saturday from New York.

The Earl of Wilton's condition still causes much anxiety, but as he has been in an equally dangerous state before hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. On Saturday the subjoined bulletin was issued at 11 a.m.:—"The Earl of Wilton suffered a serious relapse yesterday evening; obtained some hours sleep during night, and has to a certain extent rallied this morning." On Sunday the following was received from Egerton Lodge, and, as will be seen, was more favourable than the preceding one:—

Feb. 12, 10.30 a.m.—The Earl of Wilton has passed a quiet night, and had more sleep this morning; his lordship had gained strength, and his general condition had improved." Dr. Garrett, his lordship's usual medical adviser, is now twice to Egerton Lodge to see him, and Dr. Marriott and Mr. Willan are in constant attendance.

The Right Hon. Spencer H. Walpole, M.P., and Mrs. Walpole have arrived in Eaton-square from Ealing for the Parliamentary session.

The Lady Georgiana Codrington and Miss Codrington have left Thomas's Hotel for Duddingston-park.

Mr. Frederick and Lady Lucy Calvert have arrived at their residence in Upper Grosvenor-street.

Mr. W. and Hon. Mrs. Beckett Denison and Misses Denison have arrived at their residence in Piccadilly for the season.

Mr. Magniac, M.P., and Hon. Mrs. Magniac have arrived in town, to remain until Easter.

Mr. Bulkeley Hughes, member for the Carnarvon Boroughs, has suffered a very serious relapse, and on Sunday was in a most critical state. Owing to the advanced age of the hon. member grave apprehensions are felt as to his recovery.

The death of Charlotte Hon. Lady Grey, occurred on Sunday afternoon in Seaford-place, at the age of 88. The deceased lady was the only daughter of the late Sir Charles des Vaux, first baronet, by Mary Anne, third daughter of the Very Rev. Arthur Chapman, Dean of Cluny. She married, August 20, 1812, General Hon. Sir Henry George Grey, G.C.B., and G.C.H., second son of the first Earl Grey, and brother of the late Earl, the eminent statesman, and was left a widow in January, 1845.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

General Sir Garnet Wolseley, so the papers say, has "put his foot down" in opposition, for military reasons, to the Channel Tunnel scheme; and Sir Garnet's experience and judgment manfully great, and his name a tower of strength, the disfavour in which he holds the project of the Emperor of Austria is not to be wondered at.

It is generally assumed here that Russia's enmity is at present particularly directed against Austria. Germany, of course, is entirely innocent of any desire to mix herself up in the affair, but should Austria's interests be touched, she could, it is said, not leave her friend in the lurch. One Berlin paper, writing on this subject, says that Marshal Molto stated not long ago in Parliament that Germany must be armed for the next 50 years. These words are as fresh as ever to-day in the public mind, and although Gen. Scobell's speech has been disavowed by the Russian Government, still it has no more been forgotten here than the late unscrupulous attacks which the Russian press deems fit to indulge in against Germany and Austria particularly.

MOVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Calcutta correspondent of the Times telegraph on Sunday says:—

Only two items of Afghan news have officially issued during the past week—namely, that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of

the Ghilzai Khan at Cabul, orders have been despatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Cabul for the purpose.

The *Civil and Military Gazette*, a Lahore paper, publishes a report which, if true, points to a most complicated situation at Herat. It is that the Amir has ordered the Governor of that place, Abdul Kudus Khan, to make over the city and fortresses to Yaqub Khan, who proceeded to the Governorship of Candahar. Kudus, however, refused to obey, saying that he was appointed Governor by Isha Khan, without whose orders he would not move; whereupon the Amir directed the execution of Kudus's brother, Abdul Ghias Khan, who happened to be in Cabul. The report goes on to say that Herat is now in open revolt and a force of three arms has been sent from Cabul to suppress the rebellion. These rumours from Lahore, originating as they generally do in the gossip of the Peshawar bazaar, must always be received with caution. No confirmation of this story has yet reached the Government of India, and the chances are that it is exaggerated, if not wholly false. But beyond doubt the Amir's hold on Herat is slight, and the most authentic news from that quarter indicates the existence of an uneasy feeling, which may at any moment break out into open revolt.

The Indian public are anxiously awaiting full details of the treaty between Russia and Persia. Meanwhile, the Press is commenting on the apparently well-founded rumour that the Russian frontier has been advanced to 16 versts from Sarakhs. The unanimous opinion is that, should the rumour prove true, it behoves the British Government at once to make a strong and emphatic protest, as the new position will make Russia practically the mistress of Merv and Herat, and enable her at any moment to cause us serious trouble in Afghanistan and on the North-West Frontier of India.

tenderly-written love-tale, called "A Story of a Railway Journey," by Lady Lindsay, of Balcarres. The ground traversed by the lovers I had just been over myself; and I confess that my dull and unimaginative spirit had not hitherto discovered any element of love in the episodes of a railway journey. That was left for Lady Lindsay to do.

But, long before her Ladyship was born, I remember there were no railways in Italy at all; when there was no gain Rome; when the Biblio and Murray's Handbooks were impartially confiscated at the Political Custom-house; and with it herself was contemptuously styled by statesmen of the Congress of Vienna and the Holy Alliance type "a geographical expression." A tunnel under Mont Cenis! A tunnel beneath St. Gotthard! A railway across the Brenner! What visionaries—what madmen would the men have been declared to be who ventured to moot such schemes when sages of such vast judgment and experience as Nesselrode and Metternich were dominant in Europe!

It is to be hoped that some good may come out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclast of St. Paul's churchyard. Bird's sculptured group representing Queen Anne looking down on four figures at the respective bases of the pedestal, and supposed to symbolise Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, has long been eyed by Wren's majestic basiliques and architectural scandal to the entire metropolis. It is, besides, in a shameful and hopeless state of dilapidation. I earnestly hope that this "sooty and dingy" group will soon be pulled down by the authorities.

Bird was in great vogue in his day (1667-1731). He worked quickly, boldly, and cheaply, and was in much request for public works. According to Horace Walpole, the performances which first brought Bird into notice was his monument at Westminster to Dr. Busby, the terrible pedagogue (you remember that he whipped Sir Roger de Coverley's grandfather) who would not take off his hat when Charles II. visited Westminster School, lest in doing so he would be induced to believe that there was a Greater England than Dr. Busby. The means by which Bird arrived at the knowledge of Busby's facial appearance were decidedly odd. "That *Plagous Orbitalis*" of Westminster School "had never permitted his picture to be drawn." The moment he was dead his friends had a cast in plaster taken from his face, and thence drawing in crayons, from which White engraved his print, and Bird carved his image. A somewhat circuituous process.

I dined, deliberately and with malice aforethought, with the Master, Wardens, and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors at their noble old Hall in Threadneedle-street. I went thither with a special eye towards the recommendations of the National Thirtieth Society, as formulated by Dr. Benjamin Richardson, to the effect that we are bound to eat and drink "thrifly" by partaking only of the simplest diet, by not partaking of any rich sauces or made dishes, and by wholly abstaining from any fomented beverages. I was hungry; and owing to having consumed a plateful of turtle, a slice of roast mutton, and half a bottle of Apollinaris. Likewise I ventured upon a glass of dry champagne and half a bottle of Apollinaris. This to me may seem comparatively moderate; but, according to Dr. Richardson's theory, I must have sinned grievously against "christianity" first by eating that plateful of turtle, and next by drinking the glass of dry champagne. And surely plain pump water would have been "thrifler" than the Apollinaris.

The Court of the Merchant Taylors have, fortunately, a great many more things to think of besides the graceful dispensation of their sumptuous hospitality; and I was enabled to bring away from the hall in Threadneedle-street something else besides the bill of fare. This something else was the Bill and Regulations of the Convalescent Home for Ladies, established, some ten years since, exclusively at the cost and charges of the Guild of Bognor, in Sussex. The preamble tranquilly recites that "This Home is established by a grant of land made by the Royal Fraternity of the Fratres of St. John Baptist, for God's glory, and to the benefit of their suffering fellow-creatures." It is intended for the wives, widows or daughters of gentlemen, who, recovering from sickness or suffering from the effects of overwork, require rest and sea air to restore them to health. The funds for the maintenance of this charity are entirely provided by the company; the ladies are gratuitously educated and lodged during a specified time; free railway passes to and from Bognor are provided for them; and I believe that I am correct in saying that there is room in the home for more lady convalescents, and that the Clerk of the Company is ready to receive the names of properly-recommended applicants.—*G.A.S.* in the *Illustrated London News*.

VANITY FAIRINGS.

Poor Lord Londesborough, known to the outside world chiefly for his immoderate follies, and his want of self-control, will leave a worse reputation behind him than he deserved. His early education, to say the least, was not of the simplest; but, with respect to his manners, he was the source of all his troubles. Whatever he may be said, he was a lovable man, who, being weak and failing into bad hands, became in some respects unlovable. He had good abilities too, and the diary of some of his cruises which I have seen, and extracts from which have appeared in these columns, showed great power of observation and an inconsiderable power of writing. I am very sorry for him. His life, which recently showed renewed promise, was broken and embittered; he did much that was disgraceful; he was not a bad man, but a good man only weak, which no man can be and remain all the year round.

The Empress of Austria, on her arrival at Combermere Abbey, found herself in excellent condition. This was not the case, however, when a great many of them had set back. The management of the stable is entirely under the control of Captain Rawlinson, who pilots the Empress. There are 39 horses, all but four English or Irish. Twelve are for the Empress's special use; three of these are "foreigners."

At a country house the other day, when the ladies went to bed, the gentlemen all came down in smoking suits, with the exception of one young fellow, who was in his ordinary evening clothes. To him a lively sportsman said, "I say, young fellow, why haven't you got a smoking suit?" If you come down to that tomorrow I shall do something to you." The young man made no answer, but the following evening he came down again to the smoking room in his usual dress. The sportsman then said, "I told you—I gave you a warning—I should do something to you;" and then without further ado he proceeded to take out a pipe-knife and to slice the sleeves and back of the coat and each leg of the trousers. The young fellow was not very quiet, and when the sportsman had had quite done, said, "Well, I hope you're happy. You have cut up your own dress suit."

The following is strange but true:—The Sheriffs of the City of London were invited to the dinner given at the Star and Garter at Richmond on Thursday night in honour of the death of Murillo, who died in that city in 1882. The famous painter died at Sevilla, 31, 1882.

The Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond-street, have issued a beautiful mezzotint engraving by Mr. H. Kerrome, A.R.A., of Mr. J. E. Millais' painting of Lord Beaconsfield. It is made to form a companion picture to the mezzotint of Mr. Millais' portrait of Mrs. Gladstone.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12-13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOTURE.

It has been the uniform custom of English Ministers, when the procedure of the House of Commons has been in question, to take the leaders of the Opposition into council and to obtain for any new rules the sanction of both parties. Mr. Bright upbraided Lord Beaconsfield's Government in 1878 for entering the European Conference with shoted guns. It is with a parade of force that the Ministry are about to lay before Parliament the most remarkable innovations in procedure that have ever been proposed. When the project of the *closure* began to assume a practical form in Ministerial speeches during the autumn, more than one Minister intimated that it would be made a question of confidence. Mr. Gladstone, however, did not commit himself to any such position, nor was it conceivable that a statesman of his long experience and his Parliamentary training would be ready to withdraw from the free judgment of the House of Commons proposals deeply affecting the character and the future of the representative system. This, however, must be so, if the Prime Minister's scheme of *closure* is to be forced upon the House of Commons by the menace of a dissolution. The doubts and anxieties which are gathering will not be extinguished, though they may be overborne. It is, indeed, manifest that the changes contended by the proposed plan for closing debates must be far wider in their operation than is admitted by their apologists. It is assumed that should the resolution pass, we shall have to deal simply with the existing state of things modified by the *closure*, under the control of the present Speaker or the present leader of the House. But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely taxed by the fatigues of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if subjected to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions either of the leader of the House or the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *closure*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encountered and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *President de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *closure* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party unguided by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machine." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "hectograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *closure* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local caucuses, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest party passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an internecine battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see, how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. If it were to be agreed upon in accordance with Parliamentary comity between the leaders of both parties the Opposition would not be able to refuse to act up to its spirit and to join in closing debate when the question at issue had been excessively discussed and the continuation of the debate was becoming a public injury. But, coerced and outvoted, the Conservatives will feel in every case that they are acting under duress and menace and that they are under no obligation to the triumphant and overbearing majority. Many dissatisfied Liberals, whether they vote against the *closure* or not, will be influenced in the same way. They will be disposed to show the Speaker as often as possible and as long as possible that the "evident sense" of the House is not in favour of closing debate. It is, indeed, most doubtful whether, under the new rule, the Speaker could in practice be able

to raise the question of *closure* at all, except by straining the language of the resolution in a party sense. It would be certainly a forced interpretation to construe the evident sense of the House as the evident wish of the majority; yet the rule plainly allows this to be done and, according to its advocates, intends it to be done.

—Times.

THE INSURRECTION IN ARABIA.

The present insurrection in the Arabian province of Yemen threatens to assume serious proportions, and to prove the cause of some trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. A few days ago it was hoped that the worst was known, and that the rising would be promptly suppressed; but the latest news is to the effect that the disaffection has spread beyond the limits of the Vilayet of Yemen, and broken out among the tribes of the Hejaz, between Mecca and Medina. The latter city is garrisoned by only a small force, which is said to be virtually blockaded. Nothing can be done towards the restoration of order, it is admitted, until the arrival of large reinforcements from Turkey, and even the four battalions and guns sent ten days ago will hardly suffice to do more than free Medina from the presence of those who are now menacing it. Although the danger at Medina is urgent, that arising from the defiant attitude of the tribes of Yemen is in reality the more serious. It is also the recurrence of an oft-encountered peril which has at times taken the strength of the Ottoman Empire so greatly that the Porte has more than once given up the idea of successfully dealing with it. Yemen is the South-west Province of Arabia, and includes within its limits the city of Mocha. The inhabitants are among the most warlike of the Arab tribes, and they have always aspired to maintain their independence of the Sultan, partly on account of their disbelief in his claims to represent the Caliphate, and partly because they preferred a life of unfettered liberty in their own mountainous home. In the year 1635 they emancipated themselves from the Turkish yoke, and were ruled for nearly two centuries and a half by their own Sheikhs. The Turks were obliged to satisfy them selves during that long period with the military occupation of the three Holy Cities, but the caravans of pilgrims from Jeddah to Mecca had repeatedly to fight their way through marauding bands in order to visit the Prophet's Shrine. The establishment of British power at Aden, followed up by the occupation of Perim, and the construction of the Suez Canal, aroused considerable alarm in the minds of the Sultan's advisers as to the security of their hold on the three cities, which alone made the decree of the Ottoman Sultan current throughout the world of Islam. This anxiety might not, perhaps, have led to action on the part of the Porte; but, at this very conjuncture, an Arab Chief committed an outrage that could not be overlooked or pardoned. The Emir of Asir, a district north of Yemen, marched south and seized the harbour of Hodeidah, and thus isolated the small garrison stationed at Mocha. An army was at once sent from Constantinople to punish the offender; and his own territory was rapidly overrun and subjected. Glad of so good an excuse, the Porte then ordered its troops to march into the southern district of Yemen, and to reduce it to obedience. Ghazi Mukhtar, then a lieutenant general, was entrusted with the task, and, despite the valour of the Arabs, the strength of their forts, and the inclemency of the climate, he was completely successful. Within twelve months of his landing at Hodeidah, Yemen was again reduced to the condition of a province of the Sultan, but the expedition involved the sacrifice of four thousand Turkish soldiers. The origin of the present insurrection is not clearly ascertained, but the natives were, no doubt, greatly encouraged to make an attempt to re-assert their independence by the large withdrawal of Turkish troops that took place at the time of the war with Russia. Nor are the objects they have before them much better known, although it is possible that the impulse which has stirred them into action comes from the Nejd Chief, who during these last few years has been gathering into his hands the nucleus of a considerable power.—Standard.

EGYPT.

It does not at all surprise us to read in a Havas telegram that "a complete relaxation of feeling has taken place as regards the Egyptian question since the accession of the new French Minister of Foreign Affairs and the change which has followed in the attitude of the English Government." A state of "tension" naturally terminates when one end of the cord gives way; and to those who are not interested in its holding fast, this no doubt represents an "improvement in the situation." In that sense, but in that sense only, the Egyptian situation has undoubtedly improved. Everything, in fact, now points to the conclusion that the "overtures made by the Western Powers with a view to a European understanding on the subject of contingencies in Egypt" will have speedy results, and that the control of the country will pass out of the hands of both France and England into those of Europe at large. Nor is there anything astonishing in the satisfaction with which this result is in many quarters regarded. Nearly every European Power has something to gain by it. To most of these Powers it will for the first time give a voice and influence in Egyptian affairs. Germany, in particular, would like nothing better than to convert Egypt into another Belgium, under a Prince who could be changed at any time, and with the door left open for any amount of future hag-gaining. Even France would gain something by an arrangement which would avert Turkish intervention and its aggravation of French difficulties in North Africa. The one State which has everything to lose and nothing to gain by the internationalization is that one whose gift and judicious Government will have been mainly instrumental in bringing it about. Meanwhile it is manifestly becoming desirable in the interests of European residents in Egypt that the Egyptian soldiery should not be left much longer in the position of masters of the situation. The local newspapers abound alarmingly in reports of gross outrages committed by the military and police on Europeans, and followed, not only by no redress, but, as a rule, by further insult or inconvenience to the victims. A British subject resident in

Alexandria was the other night brutally beaten by a party of soldiers, and afterwards arrested and taken to the police station, where he was detained more than four hours, and only at last set free on condition of signing a paper whereby he undertook not to prosecute his assailants. Other stories of military and police violence are given in the Egyptian journal from which we take the above; and in a letter now before us it is stated by an English official of important position in Alexandria that the lives of our countrymen are not safe in Egypt at the present time, "the soldiers having been taught not to shoot at us."

more of the most skillful doctors to inspect her case for my sake I will do so." In a letter addressed to a person in Birmingham, she says: "Our poor clergyman, Mr. Belfew, died suddenly last Saturday at his vicarage in London. We are very sorry for him, yet, we need not sorrow so much, for it is not without hope. We shall, I hope, see him again in the world to come, but we shall not see him in this world, or hear his voice in preaching. May our Saviour have our dear good minister at his own blessed right side in everlasting glory! He was good, and his works will live, though he is dead and no more."

Upon being interviewed at Liverpool, on Monday, Mrs. Furneaux, mother of the adventurer, expressed the greatest disgust at her daughter's extraordinary imposition, of which she says: "At the arrest, she had not the slightest knowledge. Last Friday evening, when she was sent to Liverpool, she wrote to Lord Coleridge, asking when the affair would be settled, and received the following reply, which she produced, and which bears on the seal the Lord Chief Justice's crest:—"St. Vincent Rocks Hotel, Clifton, Feb. 9, 1882.—Madam—I am sorry for your trouble, but I have no means of interfering, nor have I any acquaintance with the business of your daughter. A letter was sent to me from a person who said he held a paper from me promising to pay him a large amount of money. As I had nothing whatever to do with him, and had never signed a paper, I simply enclosed the letter to the Birmingham police, and that is all I know of the matter.—Your obedient servant, John Coleridge."

Miss Furneaux also gave the following interesting narrative:—"My maiden name was Sarah Harriet Butler, and I am the daughter of the late Lieutenant John Hutchinson Butler, of the 22nd Regiment. My grandfather was son of the Hon. John Butler, brother of the Earl of Lansdowne. I am niece of General Bowes, who was my mother's brother, and who left my mother an annuity while she lived. The annuity was received for some time from her nephew, the Rev. — Bowes, of Taunton; afterwards from Mr. Holroyd, manager of the Exeter Bank; and subsequently from a Mr. Coleridge; but whether it is the present Lord Chief Justice I cannot say. My husband was, from 1835 to 1838, in the Royal Engineers, and we quarrelled with his father, and joined the rebellion; he remained four years. He then became a member of the Wolverhampton Police Force, but left after ten months' service. This greatly annoyed all my relations, as also did my marriage with him. When my mother died in 1858, and the annuity ceased, my daughter told me that we were about to come into possession of a large amount of property in my mother's right; and until she was taken into custody I never even dreamed that she was not speaking the truth. I all along thought that the letters she was in the habit of showing me from Lord Coleridge were genuine. I have been as great a dupe of my daughter as any of the victims. I should say she is an enemy to herself, and a disgrace to me. She never passed a man in my presence. I have seen Mr. Gething, of Birmingham, the male prisoner, an ditto, asking him to let me know what was owing to him, so that I might communicate with the proper authority—meaning by the "proper authority" Lord Coleridge."

The further the investigation proceeds, the more startling does the career of the Liverpool and Birmingham adventurers appear. The frauds, as already discovered, exceed £15,500. It is believed that the woman has a large amount of the proceeds of her marvelous frauds invested, and great efforts are being made to ascertain the places where the money has been placed. So far as the investigation of the case has proceeded, nothing which can give any clue has been found out; but the police state that several weeks will be required to read through the mass of correspondence found in the boxes of the adventures. One result of the investigation of the frauds is that the police have been called in to assist in getting in evidence which has been so far to justify Coleridge as to cause the further opposition will be offered to his application for his release on bail. His statement that he and his relatives have been ruined by their confidence in the impostor finds ample corroboration in their pitiful letters found in the possession of the female prisoner at Liverpool, and his release on bail will probably be speedily followed by his restoration to liberty and his exoneration from all complicity with the pensioner frauds. The charge of conspiracy will therefore fall to the ground, and Furneaux will be prosecuted for obtaining money by fraud, the graver aspects of this extraordinary case, namely, those of forgery and piracy, being emphasized, in order that she may be dealt with at the County Assizes, instead of at the ordinary Sessions for the Borough.

MOVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Calcutta correspondent of the Times telegraphing on Sunday says:—

Only two items of Afghan news have been officially issued during the past week—namely, that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of the Ghilzai Khan at Kabul, orders have been despatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Kabul for the purpose.

The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore paper, publishes a report which, if true, points to serious complications at Herat. It is that the Amir has ordered the Governor of that place, Abdul Kudus Khan, to make over the city and fortress to Yusuf Khan, and proceed to the Governorship of Candahar. Kudus, however, refused to obey, saying that he was appointed Governor of Herat by the Amir's orders, and would not move thereon. The Amir directed the execution of Kudus's brother, Abdul Ghias Khan, who happened to be in Kabul. The report goes on to say that Herat is now in open revolt and a force of three arms has been sent from Kabul to suppress the rebellion. These rumours from Lahore, originating as they generally do in the gossip of the Peshawar bazaar, must always be received with caution. No confirmation of this story has yet reached the Government of India, and the chances are that it is exaggerated, if not wholly false. But beyond doubt the Amir's hold on Herat is slight, and the clemency of the climate, he was a lover of hunting, and he was a good man, who, being weak and failing into bad habits, became in some respects unreliable. He had good abilities too, and the diary of some of his crimes which I have seen, and extracts from which will appear in these columns, showed great powers of observation and an incandescent power of writing which was very sorry for him. His life, which recently showed renewed promise, was broken and embittered; he did much that was distinctly blameable; yet he was not a bad, but a good man; only weak, which no man can be and remain good.

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The following is strange but true:—The Sheriff of the City of London was invited to the dinner given at the Star and Garter at Richmond on Thursday night in honour of the Richmond Hospital. That distinguished body accepted the invitation conditionally upon their being placed in seats "suitable to their exalted position!" Poor William Palliser! Many will regret his untimely death, though however his bad state of health for some months past had somewhat prepared his friends for the sad event. He was a most amiable and, when young, a very handsome man. Possessed of great ability and a versatile creative genius, he was rather out of place in regimental life, and, indeed, his mind was so absorbed by his friends and others. The artists are to pay half-price, that is 15 guineas, for the hire of the hall, to pay the expenses incurred, and to find their own easels and other apparatus.

The Art Journal for this month contains an effective etching by Mr. J. MacWhirter, A.R.A., "By the Loch Side," in which the various adjuncts to the scene depicted are harmoniously worked out with a very pleasing

result. There is also a fine engraving by Mr. F. Hall of C. E. Perugini's picture, "A Siesta," which was purchased by the Duke of Albany at the Royal Academy last year. Some excellent views of Hull are among the mischievous illustrations, and the letterpress contents include an article by E. Ingress Bell on "The True Relation of the Painter's Art to Architecture."

The frontispiece of *Art and Letters* for February is a charming engraving by F. Meaulle, from the picture by Adrian Moreau, "A Kermess in the Middle Ages." "Military Painters" are represented by several examples by A. de Neuville, Berne-Bellecourt, and Ernest Crofts, A.R.A. The works of G. B. Tripoli are also represented by some capital engravings, among the examples being "The Love of Antony and Cleopatra," and a facsimile of a sketch of "The Flight into Egypt." The literary matter is bright, and in general the appearance of this comparatively new publication promises to be a success in every sense.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

The Athenaeum states that Lord Archibald Campbell is engaged in collecting legends and traditions regarding the Campbells and Argylls.

Mr. P. M. Thornton has in the press a third volume, bringing his "Foreign Secretaries of the Nineteenth Century" from 1834 up to the last general election.

It is announced that Mr. Tuer's recently-published book, in two volumes, "Bartolozzi and his Works," will be sold at £100 a copy, and that the price will be raised to three guineas. The large paper edition, published at five guineas, is already out of print.

Miss Chapman and Hall will shortly publish a "Charles Dickens Birthday Book," Miss Dickens has compiled the volume, which has cost her more than a year of labour. Mrs. C. E. Perugini supplies five illustrations, namely, a frontispiece and the seasons. They are not taken from any thing or character in Dickens's works, but the models are all of children.

The heirs (Anglice, freeholders) of the little border town of Dunse, in Berwickshire, have finally resolved to revert to the ancient spelling of the name—Duns, without the final e—which is said to have prevailed down to the year 1740.

A monthly journal, styled the *Irish Economist*, and dealing with agricultural and domestic economy and finance, is to be started in Dublin next week.

Miss Baxter and Dr. Baxter have now informed the Dundee Town Council that they have executed a deed of endowment and trust with reference to the proposed university in Dundee. Of their gift of £110,000, one-fourth has been expended on a site with buildings, while £10,000 has been set apart for salaries and incidental charges. The deed of endowment, it is said, was drawn up by the present members of the council, and the sum of £10,000 is to be paid to the University of Dundee.

Mr. Robert Buchanan has now two new works nearly ready for publication. First, a volume of poems; and, secondly, a romance in three volumes, the "Martyrdom of Madeline," which has for its theme "the social conspiracy against womanhood," and was planned with, and written in close sequence to, Mr. Buchanan's powerful "God and the Man." A Study of the Vanity and Folly of Individual Life. The "Martyrdom of Madeline" has been running its course through some provincial papers, and is likely to

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 13—14, 1882.

THE LATEST PHASE OF THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Although, so far as the English Government can help to enlighten it, Parliament is left completely in the dark concerning our Egyptian policy, a flood of information has been let upon the question during the past few days from several quarters. M. Gambetta has gone upon his travels, and with his fall a more circumspect policy has been adopted by the French Foreign Office. Once more the English Cabinet is experiencing that sense of sudden isolation caused by the defection of France, which led to the break-up of the European Fleet that assembled in the Adriatic in the autumn of 1880. It may be doubted, however, whether, even if M. Gambetta had not been thrown from his saddle, our own Government would have abided by the principles laid down in the Identic Note, to whose "success" Earl Granville has testified. We cannot but think that the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House would do well to invite the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make some statement as to the communications, written or oral, which have during the last few days passed between him and the Representatives of the Powers who read their own Identic Note to Said Pacha. Unless we are very much misinformed, Earl Granville has been devoting his energies to minimising the success and to undoing the "great effect" of his former despatches, and has been profuse in his assurances to more than one Foreign Ambassador in this Capital, that his despatch of November and the Identic Note of January really meant nothing at all, and that the desire mainly cherished by this country is that the affairs of Egypt should be treated as the common concern of all the Powers. Now, before commenting on the levity, as well as the danger of this course, we are forced to ask what relation it bears to the attitude maintained at Cairo up to date by the agents of the Cabinet? Will the noble Lord maintain that it is not "substantially different" from the line of conduct laid down in the Identic Note of January? If that be so, why did Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy at once take action at Constantinople, and why has it become necessary to explain to them that we are most desirous to have their co-operation and to act strictly in concert with their wishes? Could anything be plainer than that Lord Granville either was alarmed by the sound he himself had made in the Identic Note, or by the counter sound which it at once evoked from the Four Powers. Whether it be wise, or whether it be unwise, to associate those Powers with ourselves in the direction and control of the affairs of Egypt, it is placed beyond dispute that such was not our intention a month ago. Whether it be wise or whether it be unwise to recognise in the amplest manner the Sovereign rights of the Sultan over the Khedive, it is incontestable that we did not recognise, nay, that we ignored, them, until they were brought to our attention by the Powers that took umbrage at our separate action. That in what appertains to Egypt our Government have first said one thing and then said another is scarcely open to doubt. The country, however, would not be unwilling to make allowance for the inherent difficulties of the situation, if it thought that at last our policy had got its head in the right direction, and that the period of vacillation was closed. But what is the present position? Unless Earl Granville can give a contradiction to the assertion that his recent efforts have been directed to tranquillising the Powers and to inviting their co-operation in Egypt, is it not only too plain that our interests in that country are going to be placed, by our own consent—indeed, at our own invitation—under the protection of the European Concert? This is what comes of writing strong Notes, and supporting them with weak action. There is no difficulty in understanding the dilemma in which the Cabinet now finds itself. Either we are to make good the warning addressed to the National Party in Egypt by the Joint Note, or we are to put up with the contempt with which that warning has been treated. From the former course it is clear the Government shrink. Naturally, however, they are ill content to leave the matter in the humiliating position implied by doing nothing. In order to escape from either forcibly controlling Arabi Bey and his associates, or from avowedly submitting to them altogether, they have appealed to the European Concert to get them out of the difficulty, and one of two things must now infallibly occur. Either the European Concert will do nothing, in which case the National Party will continue to encroach upon the powers of the Control, and to appropriate the Revenue intended for the Bondholders; or the European Concert will resort to active interference, and Egyptian affairs, in which we are supposed to have a special and a leading interest, will become the business of the whole world. Be it borne in mind, moreover, that one of the members of the European Concert is Russia, whom Lord Derby reminded that, even in case of war with Turkey, Egypt must remain entirely out of the sphere of her military operations. Does the English Cabinet propose to allow the Court of St. Petersburg to have any say or share in controlling or directing policy at Cairo? This is to put the extreme result of this new expedient of our Foreign Office. Are we to be assured, in due course, that it would not be right, not moral, not Christian, to assume greater influence in Egypt than we are willing to accord to other Powers? If the plea were a sincere one it would deserve the contempt that is the proper answer to sentimental folly. But in this instance, at least, it is not sincere. It is merely a flimsy veil for failure and incapacity. We seem to have no policy, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, unless it be that on no account must we offend anybody, quarrel with anybody, dissatisfy anybody. Thus we are driven from pillar to post, and have no firm standing ground anywhere.—*Standard*.

Government will adhere not only to its principle, but to its letter. What, Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues ask, is the use of a majority, if it is not to be employed upon such occasions as the present? It is the business of followers to follow. The Liberal chiefs have come to the determination that the power of ending a debate should be vested in the House of Commons, and that its exercise should be regulated by a bare preponderance of votes. How far this decision is wise, and whether it is politic to place the pressure which it involves upon the Ministerialists, are not questions with which we are now concerned. Events alone can justify the wisdom or expose the folly of the step. That the Cabinet will succeed in giving immediate effect to their policy there is no doubt. When the eventual division in the discussion, which begins on Thursday, takes place, Ministers will not have many votes to spare. There will be several abstentions and some secessions. But the Whigs will not retire in a body, as has been asserted; they have listened to the voice of reason, according to the Ministerial interpretation of the term. Mr. Walter, Mr. Gourley, and one or two more will go into the Opposition lobby, but they will do so almost alone. The Conservatives are, of course, pledged to resist the *closure* to the last, but it is by no means certain that they feel as strongly on the subject as they profess. On the other hand, there is reason to think that some of them will hail it with satisfaction. It has been said that when the Opposition come to Power they will endeavour to repeal the *closure*. They will do nothing of the sort. They will, on the other hand, derive more practical advantage from it than the Liberals. When they are in office they will have to deal with the eternal question of Ireland. In all probability they will have to pass a Coercion Bill. They could certainly not do this without the *closure*. The idea of applying coercion to the House of Commons may be unacceptable and repulsive; but there is the best reason to believe that it is recognised as inevitable quite as much by the Conservatives as by the Government. For these reasons we hold that the resistance to the *closure* resolution will be much more apparent than real. There is a prodigious fuss over it; but the tumult will soon subside, and the echoes of angry voices will die away.—*World*.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The particular fashion of exchanging love greetings which has rather arbitrarily fixed on the Fourteenth of February for its anniversary, and on Valentine's Day for its saint, has varied with the variations of tribe and century. Valentine is enrolled in the list of Christian martyrs, but the rites which have assumed his name were celebrated by pious pagans long before he was thought of.—

The second week of February is somewhat bleak for assignations in English woods, but the birds seem to find it a suitable period for their nestings. Some household arrangements. Birds have always been favourite subjects for the illustration of heraldic devices, and about so freely at this time. These effigies have, truly to say, degenerated of late years into rather perfunctory and illusive make-shifts. Sundry specimens of gay emblematical which have this year presented themselves boldly to the inquirer, as Valentines with a fair air of stale New Year or Christmas cards about them. What has a representation of an Eastern maiden selected from among the brilliant stuffs of an itinerant merchant, with the legend underneath, "With the best greetings of the season," to do with Valentine's Day? The thing is manifestly inadequate. Better by far the archaic simplicity of the stanza which has helped many an ardent but inexperienced boy out of the trouble of a wordless passion—"The rose red; the violet blue; Honey sweet; And so are you." The young single-minded lover will find more satisfaction in that personal, if crude, form of address than in a lithographed study after Mr. Alma-Tadema, or even in painted satin pin-cushions, packets of soap, or bottles of perfume. Matters were far more serious in the old English times, when young men and maidens drew for each other on Valentine's Eve in lotteries, and the gentleman was expected not only to make presents to his fair of more or less value, but to serve as her faithful swain and servant for the rest of the year. Married people do not seem to have been exempt from this pleasing penalty, which suggests a larger acceptance on conjugal engagements than the trouble of a wordless passion!—The rose red; the violet blue; Honey sweet; And so are you.

The custom of giving Valentine's Day gifts is not only too plain that our interests in that country are going to be placed, by our own consent—indeed, at our own invitation—under the protection of the European Concert? This is what comes of writing strong Notes, and supporting them with weak action. There is no difficulty in understanding the dilemma in which the Cabinet now finds itself. Either we are to make good the warning addressed to the National Party in Egypt by the Joint Note, or we are to put up with the contempt with which that warning has been treated. From the former course it is clear the Government shrink. Naturally, however, they are ill content to leave the matter in the humiliating position implied by doing nothing. In order to escape from either forcibly controlling Arabi Bey and his associates, or from avowedly submitting to them altogether, they have appealed to the European Concert to get them out of the difficulty, and one of two things must now infallibly occur. Either the European Concert will do nothing, in which case the National Party will continue to encroach upon the powers of the Control, and to appropriate the Revenue intended for the Bondholders; or the European Concert will resort to active interference, and Egyptian affairs, in which we are supposed to have a special and a leading interest, will become the business of the whole world. Be it borne in mind, moreover, that one of the members of the European Concert is Russia, whom Lord Derby reminded that, even in case of war with Turkey, Egypt must remain entirely out of the sphere of her military operations. Does the English Cabinet propose to allow the Court of St. Petersburg to have any say or share in controlling or directing policy at Cairo? This is to put the extreme result of this new expedient of our Foreign Office. Are we to be assured, in due course, that it would not be right, not moral, not Christian, to assume greater influence in Egypt than we are willing to accord to other Powers? If the plea were a sincere one it would deserve the contempt that is the proper answer to sentimental folly. But in this instance, at least, it is not sincere. It is merely a flimsy veil for failure and incapacity. We seem to have no policy, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, unless it be that on no account must we offend anybody, quarrel with anybody, dissatisfy anybody. Thus we are driven from pillar to post, and have no firm standing ground anywhere.—*Standard*.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

On Monday the Empress of Austria was out with the North Shropshire Hounds, but although Viscount Hill was most scourged his district until after five o'clock, only one fox was found at the Tewlows, and he was killed almost immediately. The meet was at Press Station, and at 11.30 her Majesty rode with Count Larisch (who is hunting with the Leicestershire Hounds) and his son to Cottenham for a couple of days. Mrs. Kinsky, Captain Middleton (her pilot last year), Prince Lichtenstein, and Major Bulkeley. Her Majesty and suite returned home at three.

The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) has been on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle, returned to Kensington Palace on Monday evening.

The Earl and Countess of Derby returned to St. James's-square on Monday from Keston, where they have been passing a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Jersey have left Great Stanhope-street for Middleton Park, Bognor.

The Countess of Lonsdale, accompanied by several members of her family, left Carlton-house-terrace early on Monday morning for Lowther Castle, in order to attend the late Earl's funeral.

The Right Hon. Charles P. Villiers, M.P., was suffering from weakness from his close confinement to his room. Some weeks must also elapse before the right hon. gentleman will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons.

THE COMING CLOUTURE.

Ministers have not only the courage of their convictions, but the daring which a consciousness of their majority inspires. The rumours of concession and compromise in connection with the *closure* resolution are absolutely unfounded, and the

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT.

Lord ORAMORE, in moving for various returns respecting the names, qualifications, and action of the Sub-Commissioners appointed under the Irish Land Act, said the Government ought to inform the House of the gentlemen previously to their appointment as Sub-Commissioners, and practical acquaintance with the use of land in Ireland, and also in what cases they had directed valuations by independent valuers. The noble lord criticised adversely the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners, and, advertising to the pamphlet entitled, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," observed that there were rumours in Dublin to the effect that its publication at the Stationery Office there was not so accidental as the Government had been assured. He thought that, at all events, the mere fact of its publication by that office showed how important it was to him that the Land Act should be put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr. MARSHALL maintained that it was impossible to keep rents in Ireland beyond the point permitted by foreign competition, and predicted that if they were not further reduced, there would be an agitation against the judicial rents.

Mr. BLENNERHASSETT condemned the policy of the ultra-extreme party and especially the "No-rent" manifesto, which he believed it would be found impossible to carry out.

Speaking from personal experience of the Land Courts, he maintained that the Sub-Commissioners had done substantial justice.

At the same time, he admitted many landlords had suffered severely, and though no case for compensation had been made out, he hoped the Government would be able to see its way to give them some relief.

Mr. BARRY, criticising the administration of the Coercion Acts, contended that they had been obtained on false pretences, and maintained that Mr. Gladstone had totally misrepresented the work of the Land League, on the faith of which he had arrested Mr. Parnell and his colleagues.

Mr. T. DICKSON made a strong attack on the Conservative party and the landlords, pointed out various defects in the Land Act, and, though refusing to vote for the amendment, condemned the policy of coercion.

Lord G. HAMILTON, reverting to Mr. Chamberlain's misrepresentation of his Liverpool speech, maintained that the language there used bore out his contention that the Government had failed in their duty in not putting down the Land League and apparently for a political purpose.

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Lord G. HAMILTON, reverting to Mr. Chamberlain's Liverpool speech, quoted numerous passages from it, and contended that it convicted the Government of having utilized the Land League for Parliamentary purposes and of having refrained from suppressing it solely with the view of passing the Land Act. This he pointed out was after that organization had been formed by the Home Secretary and other Ministers as a tool of the Conservative party of semi-seditious character.

On the deplorable consequence of the delay in putting down the Land League he dilated at some length, and criticizing next the administration of the Land Act, he insisted that the Sub-Commissioners had entirely changed its character, that these officials were frequently partisans, and that their judgments had resulted in public plunder.

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE contended that the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners had disclosed an amount of rack-renting which had not been before suspected and which, moreover, had existed for a great number of years.

To illustrate this, he quoted various cases, and expressed a decided opinion that in the same way the Land Act would probably effect very large reductions of rent. To the charge that the Government had delayed in putting down the Land League, he replied by asserting that its main principles had been fully brought forward before the late Government went out.

At the same time he argued that the Land League had been progressing, and that nothing could be more flagitious than the change of front effected after the Land Act.

Speaking of the future he expressed his belief that if the landlords pressed their claims with justice and moderation their rents would be paid and the Government were ready to assist them.

Mr. GRAY examined in great detail the grounds on which Mr. Parnell's arrest was justified by the Government, contending that his aim and meaning had been completely misrepresented.

On the motion of Mr. SEXTON the debate was again adjourned.

The House adjourned at 20 minutes after 2 o'clock.

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POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We have reason to believe that on Monday a note was despatched by Earl Granville to the British representatives at the Courts of Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and St. Petersburg on the subject of Egypt. This step was taken in conjunction with the French Government, which at the same time despatched an identical note to their representatives at these Courts.

The statements current alleging intention on the part of Government to vary the form of the first resolution in the scheme of Parliamentary procedure reform, are entirely without foundation. Mr. Gladstone will on Thursday move the Resolution, as it has been placed on the paper.

The apparently concerted movement in some quarters to represent the *closure* clause as being in danger, owing to defection on the part of the Liberal side, has done little to assist the cause of the *closure* clause.

We understand that the Government have no intention of following the course suggested by the question of which Mr. Bromley-Devonport has given notice, and moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the Channel

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PARIS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14—15, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.

The unexpected extinction of the debate on the Address on Tuesday night may possibly be the first effect of the impending changes in the rules of the House of Commons. The Government Whips are apparently so full of the prospect of obtaining novel and extraordinary powers for putting Ministerial business through, that they are already tempted to relax the vigilance and activity of their ordinary duties. It certainly was not intended, when the House met on Tuesday, that the debate on the Address should be closed by a speech, unanswered and unchallenged, from the most forcible and brilliant rhetorician in the ranks of the Irish Irreconcilables. Mr. Sexton, who moved the adjournment on Monday night, had the right of opening the renewed debate. He had previously established his reputation in the House as the ablest speaker among the followers of Mr. Parnell since the retirement of Mr. O'Connor Power from active co-operation with that party. The Government could not have affected to treat Mr. Sexton's attack with contemptuous indifference, though few were prepared for the artistic success of his performance. Indeed, before Mr. Sexton rose the Prime Minister was subjected to some cross-examination from members who were dissatisfied with the exclusion of all other than Irish topics hitherto from the discussion. Sir Henry Wolff demanded that an opportunity should be given for considering the affairs of the East and the informal negotiations with the Vatican. Mr. Gorst protested against leaving the state of the Transvaal without notice. Sir Walter Bartelot urged that the great question of agricultural depression should not be passed over. Mr. Gladstone, in his answer, suggested that those topics might be taken up on the report of the Address, which he proposed to fix for Wednesday, assuming that Mr. McCarthy's amendment would occupy the whole of Tuesday night's sitting. On this assumption, also, he founded his reply to Mr. Dawson's protest against the postponement of the Irish Borough Franchise Bill, which would have had the first place among the Orders of Wednesday, if it had not been superseded by the report of the Address. Allusion was made by Sir Henry Wolff to the rumour that Mr. Herbert Gladstone was to draw upon his Irish experience in dealing with the hostile criticisms of Conservatives and Home Rulers. It was, furthermore, reasonable to expect that the Prime Minister himself would not let slip the occasion for meeting Mr. Plunkett's challenge, and showing what he really meant when he seemed last week to invite the Irish Nationalists to present a Home Rule scheme for the consideration of Parliament. Unfortunately, in spite of this general understanding, no one rose to continue the debate when Mr. Sexton sat down. The Conservatives had nothing to add to the case presented by their boldest and most skilful advocate. The Speaker, seeing no one rise on the Ministerial side, was compelled to put the question forthwith, and, a division being taken, Mr. McCarthy's amendment was rejected by a majority of 98 to 30. The Address was voted immediately afterwards, and in the course of a brief conversation on the Slave Trade the House was counted out. The hours thus lost might have been profitably employed in satisfying the demands with which Mr. Gladstone had been confronted in the evening, but the loss was, we must suppose, due to accident or neglect. It is peculiarly unfortunate that Mr. Gladstone should have been unable or unwilling to give his explanation of his hasty utterances last week, while leaving Mr. Sexton's speech without an answer. We are glad to recognize Parliamentary ability on any side or in any form, and it would be idle, through dislike of Mr. Sexton's extreme and dangerous political opinions, to deny that his dashing and powerful statement of the position of the Land League made a deep impression upon the House. We remain unconvinced by his ingenious attempt to exhibit the League to the world as a constitutional movement, striving to compass legitimate and praiseworthy objects by lawful means. But he contended, with much plausibility, that the operations and the intentions of the League were consistent throughout, as well while tolerated by the Government as when denounced and suppressed. It is, however, more important to take note of Mr. Sexton's uncompromising attitude upon the vital issue which underlies even the land question. Mr. Sexton declares, in the most outspoken language, that he heartily shares the hope expressed by Mr. Parnell, that Irish agitation may not be allowed to cease "until the detestable alien rule of the 'bullock' Government which has kept the country impoverished has been got rid of." To this frank affirmation of his hostility to the British connexion, Mr. Sexton significantly added that he trusted the recent speech of the Prime Minister foreshadowed the concession of the Irish Nationalist demands. But, whatever may be the attitude of English statesmanship, Mr. Sexton is determined to go his own way, and he makes no secret of the method he will resolutely make use of. He, like his chief, perceive the imprudence—at all events, in existing circumstances—an appeal to force. The circumstances of the Land League are more subtle

and dangerous. Nothing in Mr. Sexton's remarkable speech was more significant than the audacity and determination of his defence of "boycott." He admits that, under ordinary conditions, such a system of social persecution would be detestable, but that in Ireland, where the people "were living under an alien law made by another community," it was justifiable and necessary. In the face of Mr. Sexton's audacious speech, it becomes more than ever the duty of the Government to show that the grasp laid upon lawlessness in Ireland will not be relaxed until the Irish people have recognised the supremacy of the law and the obligation of contracts. There is another duty which the Government—and especially the Prime Minister—must not decline. After what Mr. Sexton has declared to be the objects and the methods of a strong, daring, and unscrupulous party, irreconcilably hostile to the British connexion, it is manifest that any incautious steps, holding out to Irish Nationalism the prospect of obtaining a leverage for subverting the Union in the form of a separate Legislature for Ireland, ought to be promptly and clearly disavowed. —
Times.

ENGLAND AND THE VATICAN.

Mr. Gladstone is, with and besides his many other qualifications, a man of business, and we do not suppose that he can feel very well satisfied with the methods of communication with the Vatican which he described on Tuesday. It is a Foreign Office tradition that means of direct intercourse between the Holy See and the British Government are essential. There are questions affecting the Roman Catholic Church in the colonies, in India, and perhaps nearer home, as to which it is believed to be necessary to interchange views and information with the Pope. For this purpose the present Lord Lyons, the present Lord Ampthill, and Mr. Jervois were at different times detached from what was then the British Legation at Florence to the Vatican. They corresponded, we believe, directly with the Foreign Office, and not through the intervention of the Minister to the Court of the King of Italy. When this officious representation was abolished, the good offices of Cardinal Howard were put into requisition for bringing the Queen's Government and the Papal See into communication. It is important that there should be an exchange of views between Downing-street and Dublin Castle on the one hand, and the Vatican on the other, it is certainly desirable that it should be conducted in a regular and official manner, by agents responsible to a Ministry, which is in its turn responsible to the House of Commons, and by means of despatches and other documents which can be laid before Parliament. That Mr. Forster should correspond with the Pope through Lord O'Hagan, and Lord Granville through Mr. Errington, may be necessary in default of any more regular channels of communication; but the House of Commons should know what has been done. When business is transacted by means of private letters, which being private cannot be laid before Parliament, and which not being laid before Parliament cannot be referred to it, we seem to be getting very far back into the era and the methods of secret and irresponsible diplomacy. Perhaps there is no help for it in this particular case and in present circumstances. But even Exeter Hall would prefer, we imagine, a public and responsible representative at the Vatican to strictly private and confidential correspondence with it. —
Daily News.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL AND MILITARY OPINION.

Mr. Gladstone's answer to Mr. Bromley-Davenport on Tuesday afternoon was satisfactory. The Channel Tunnel Bills are not to be rushed through the House of Commons. It is strange that when the scheme was first considered under the late Government so little attention should have been paid to its military aspects. That mistake has now been set right. The Government "have become aware that various authorities, chiefly military authorities, had perceived that there were strong reasons why the question should be reopened," and they are now about to give these reasons immediate and complete consideration. It cannot be too much impressed upon the public that the question is before everything else a military question. It is of but little use to dwell on the financial and engineering difficulties of the scheme. Unforeseen obstacles may, of course, present themselves in both directions. But, in the opinion of those who are most likely to have gauged them accurately, the chance of their doing so is small. It may be assumed, therefore, that unless Parliament refuses its consent to the scheme on purely military grounds, one or more tunnels will shortly be constructed underneath the Channel. The one question of real importance is whether the military reasons which are urged against the scheme have sufficient force to outweigh the reasons urged in its favour. We have already insisted on the fundamental distinction between the amount and kind of evidence that ought to be tendered before a Channel Tunnel Bill is accepted by Parliament and the amount and kind of evidence that would be demanded from the promotion of any ordinary experiment. In the latter case it would be enough to show that the balance of argument is on the side of the undertaking. If the commercial gain were sufficiently great, the country might fairly be willing to run some little risk in order to secure it. In this case, however, the risk to be run is altogether out of proportion to any gain the scheme could bring in. Granted the number of passengers between Paris and London increased tenfold, and the growth of the goods traffic was fully in proportion to it, no advantage the country could reap thereby would make up for the ruin that would certainly be brought about by an invasion which was successful only for a short time. It can be proved to demonstration that the existence of the Channel Tunnel will not in the slightest degree lessen the security of the country, by all means let it be made. But no such permission should be given so long as any reasonable doubt exists upon this head. Now, the existence of such a doubt is proved by the circumstance that it is felt by a single competent witness (not that he stands alone either in testimony or authority, by any means) and the true way of breaking down the evidence of a single competent witness is to convince him that his distrust of the scheme is ill-founded. It would be absurd

in the highest degree to part with the security of the country against foreign invasion because six general officers thought the tunnel might be made quite safe, while only five took the contrary view. Nor should the evidence in support of the harmlessness of the scheme from a military point of view be of the easy-going and slipshod kind which Sir John Adye gave on Saturday. "If ever," he said, "an enemy was so foolish as to attempt an invasion that way, and even succeed in sending through a few thousand men, he should be quite ready to take down some of the Kentish Volunteers and frighten them away." It is true that this was said at a Volunteer meeting; and officers of the regular army often seem to think that what these occasions most call for is a little professional buffoonery. Strange to say, this little bit of professional buffoonery has been treated by journals of repute as a serious contribution to the arguments by which the question must eventually be decided. Consequently, it is not too soon to say that a military opinion upon this question, if it is to be worth anything, must be one that travels over the whole relation of such a means of access to a plan of attack, and decides either that its creation will constitute no danger to all, or a danger which can be entirely removed by the adoption of such and such specific precautions. If either of these points can be made good, we do not imagine that the experts who are now hostile to the tunnel will be so any longer. If they should still be hostile to it, it will be because they hold that there is a flaw somewhere in their opponents' reasoning, and that, after all that has been said, there remains an appreciable danger which is not entirely met by the precautions suggested by the advocates of the scheme. It is to be hoped that the Government will lose no time in fulfilling their promise to communicate their opinions to Parliament before any proceedings are taken on the two bills now before the House of Commons. The more money that is spent on preliminary experiments the greater will be the unwillingness of the promoters to abandon the project; and where so much may depend on its rejection it is important not to have any more interests enlisted in its behalf than can be helped. —
St. James's Gazette.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS")

By direction of the Speaker, an arrangement has been made by which all questions addressed to the Prime Minister are placed together, and come at the end of the questions. This is done with the idea of economizing as much as possible. Mr. Gladstone's

It is stated that Sir Stafford Northcote will not have the full support of the Conservative party in moving the negative to the last resolution. Several of the moderate Conservatives recognise the necessity of placing the motion before the House in working order, and this will be responsible for steps tending to embarrass endeavours in that direction.

In obedience to the strong wish issued on Tuesday, there was a large attendance of members in the House of Commons, anticipatory of the division on the Address. It appearing clear at seven o'clock that this could not take place before 11, more than 200 members left the House, arranging to be back at that hour.

Baron de Worms was prepared to bring on Tuesday night his resolution respecting the persecution of the Jews. A hasty telegram brought him from the direction that he arrived at the house shortly after eight o'clock. Mr. Shear was to second the resolution. There was also present the Count-out interrupting a consultation as to whether, in the circumstances, it would be desirable to bring forward the resolution.

Nothing is known among Irish members of Parliament of the "intended action of the Government with regard to Mr. Parnell," to which reference is made in a Dublin newspaper, and which, it is stated, "has suddenly and keenly agitated the Irish Parliamentary party."

Mr. Labouchere, Mr. T. C. Thompson, and Mr. Carbuncle were the only English members who voted for Mr. McCarthy's amendment. In the opinion of the Address Mr. Tillet was the only English member who voted with the Parnellites.

It is unlikely that Mr. Dilwyn will move his resolution on the North Borneo Charter on Tuesday, as it is understood that he wished the House to be in possession of the official correspondence before the subject is discussed. Mr. Gorst is said to have decided to bring forward the motion on the same question which stands in his name on the notice paper for Friday week. Baron de Worms will put down his motion with reference to outrages on Jews in Russia for the same night, so that it is considered possible that Mr. Gorst may ultimately give way.

Mr. Cappa intends to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War a question as to the truth of a statement made in a report of the Transvaal Volksraad, dated November last, to the effect that in 1878 the British authorities in the Transvaal had apprised 800 Kaffirs to the farmers, and that while the adults were to be under a contract for a period of three years only, the children were to be detained in servitude until the boy had reached their eighteenth and the girls their seventeenth year.

The Under-Secretary of State for War has notified to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that in future officers of the Royal Marine forces will be considered eligible for employment in the personal staff of general officers of the army as aides-de-camp, when such services are applied for in that capacity. It is, however, to be clearly understood, that a general officer has not the absolute choice of an officer who may be technically eligible for his personal staff with the sanction of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

Mr. Bradlaugh is likely at some early date to raise a fresh and interesting question of Parliamentary procedure. He is, we understand, advised that the resolution passed by the House last week applies only to a sitting of the full House. With the chairman of Committees presiding, Mr. Bradlaugh believes there exists no bar to his entering the House and taking part in the debate; and this, we understand, he intends to do.

Some time ago it was expected that Sir Arthur Gordon, Governor of New Zealand, would visit England during the ensuing spring. We learn that he has abandoned this intention, having decided to remain in the colony.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CONTINENT.

The Berlin correspondent of the Times telegraphed on Tuesday night:—

It is announced here to-day that Queen Victoria, during her approaching journey on the Continent, and, in fact, on the way to Mentone, will pay a short visit to Arleson in order more particularly to see her future daughter-in-law, the Princess Helen. It is also stated that the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Germany will proceed from Berlin to Arleson in order to welcome her Majesty. Queen Victoria's arrival at the Prince of Waldeck's residence is expected to take place on the 16th proximo.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

MARIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR introduced a Bill, and it was read a first time, for the consolidation and amendment of the laws relating to the property of married women in England and Ireland.

Egypt and Tunis.

Lord DE LA WARR asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the papers relating to Egypt would be put on the table, and also whether the Government could give any information with regard to the relations between us at the railway terminus of Zenica, in North Bosnia, and begin tearing up the rail there, thus threatening the only existing line in this province. For the last fortnight, since the 9th Regiment left for Serajevo, the whole line has been left entirely unprotected. Troops are now being hastily sent to Zenica, to prevent any further attempts of the description in question. The insurgents have already rendered the roads unsafe, and it is now evident that Zenica must fall if they ever succeed in capturing the railway communications with Austria. Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia, would, for a time at least, be lost, and the entire garrison, who would be unable to procure provisions, could hardly fail to be captured.

It is clear that the plan of the insurgents is to surround Serajevo from their base of operations near Zenica and Potcha, and in this they are being assisted, in the teeth of the Austrian authorities, by certain movements on the part of some of the population of this city. A striking proof of the existence of insurgent sympathisers in the city was given yesterday afternoon when a number of Servian inhabitants followed a coffin to the Servian Cemetery of Serajevo. The suspicions of the police were somehow aroused by the occurrence, and the coffin was opened, when it was found that instead of a corpse it contained only rifles. Further inquiry led to the conclusion that those rifles were intended to be used somewhat later by those who, as the keeping of arms is forbidden, hit upon the device of burying them for a time. The police have been busy in searching all the mourners at the late funeral, who, together with the officiating priest, have been arrested.

Their Lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.

Baron DE WORMS presented a petition from 800 merchants and others of Manchester, praying that the Government would place the matter in communication with the other Great Powers for the purpose of making friendly representations to the Russian Government with regard to the persecution to which the Jews were subjected.

QUESTIONS.

In answer to a question from Mr. Bromley-Davenport, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government would not think it would be desirable to present the papers relating to Egypt at the present moment. He was not aware of any change in our relations with Tunis since he answered questions on the subject put by the noble earl months ago. Her Majesty's Government had not been asked to give any formal recognition to the Treaty of Bardo, and they had given none; but they had shown no hostility to it, at the same time that they were determined to maintain our rights in the regency.

Their Lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatio Stopford, and her Majesty walked and drove with Princess Beatrice this morning. Lady Cochrane, and the Misses Cochrane, and the Rev. Canon Prothero had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the Address was resumed by Mr. Sexton, who maintained that every clause in Mr. McCarthy's amendment charged a crime against the Irish Executive, and that every crime had been proved. Tracing the origin of the Land League, he asserted that its sole objects were to stop rack-renting and to convert occupiers into owners by buying out the landlords. If there had been no Land League, he said, there would have been no Act. But that Act only aimed at carrying out the first part of the League's programme, and it was when it continued to agitate for the second that the Government suppressed it. To illustrate the peace and concord which followed the formation of the League, he spoke in terms of high compliment, characterizing him as a "common-place, clumsy Cromwell." He denied that there had been any alteration in Mr. Parnell's policy after his arrest. Although he adhered to his belief that the land question could only be settled by the creation of landlordism, it was desired by the *Times* to ascertain what public benefits the Land Act would actually confer on the people and to avoid the litigation which he foresaw would ensue. The "No-rent" manifesto—to the terms of which he strictly adhered still—was a legitimate reply, he insisted, to the suppression of the Land League, but it was in the power of the Government to convert it into a dead-letter to-morrow by restoring the Constitution. The necessity of that manifesto had been proved by what had occurred since the Land Act, he contended, was a dismal failure.

The Duke and Duchess of Leeds have arrived at 1, Grosvenor Crescent. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has left town for Goodwood Park, Sussex.

The Duke of Athole left town on Tuesday evening for Blair Athole. The Duchess, who is still in town, will join his Grace in a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Onslow have left London for the Continent.

The Earl of Wilton remains in about the same condition. After being visited by his local medical advisers the following bulletin was issued at noon on Tuesday:—

The Earl of Wilton has passed a quiet night. His lordship's general condition continues in much the same state as the last report 10.30."—The Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Cambridge have sent daily for the last information from Egerton Lodge. The Prince of Wales is informed by telegraph every morning before the medical report is made public.

Galignani's Messenger.

EVENING EDITION.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 15—18, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S FOREIGN POLICY.

The Report on the Address was on Wednesday made the occasion for a desultory review of the conduct of Government in the department of Foreign Policy. What their programme was every one knows. The European Concert was to secure freedom for oppressed populations and restrain the jealousies of rival Powers in the East. The splendid example of moderation we had set in Afghanistan was to permit free play to the more healthy influences which surround the Czar, and the bugbear of Russian aggression in Asia was to disappear for a generation at least. This was the promise. What is the fulfilment? What do "the relations of cordial harmony," in which, according to the curious English of the Queen's Speech, her Majesty "remains with all Foreign Powers" really mean? Greece has received a good slice of the territory which the Powers, or some of them, encouraged her to claim, and our Government naturally makes the most of this partial success. But the effort has left Greece impoverished and demoralised. The King was never so unpopular; the Government never so discredited. The European Concert, too, has done nothing to prevent a rising in Herzegovina against the Austrian occupation, nor has it disarmed the Panslavic agitation in Russia, which, if it did not contrive the insurrection, encourages, aids, and directs the insurgents. It certainly has not given peace to Bulgaria, where, according to rumour, the *coup d'état*, which transferred power from the people to the Prince, may any day be followed by another *coup d'état* re-transferring power from the Prince to those who profess to represent the people. And certainly, by confession of the Government themselves, the Concert does not justify them even in interceding for the persecuted Jews of Russia. Turkey, to be sure, in its weakness, not Russia in its strength, was meant to be the object on which the Concert of Europe was to act. But the promised reforms in the Ottoman Empire seem unconscionably slow in coming. For weeks and months we have been hearing at intervals that at last the increasing pressure put by our Ambassador—or by all the Ambassadors—on the Sultan has elicited a definite promise of immediate reforms in Armenia. But somehow the Commission nominated to inquire never starts, the wicked officials who are recalled remain at their posts, the reform ends where it began in the Bureau at Stamboul. Meanwhile Kurdish raids and Armenian discontent, and the exactions of the local officials, threaten to give Russia fresh pretences for intervention in the coveted Province. As to Egypt, just the one place where no Englishman would wish to see the European Concert invoked, our attempt to manage things in unison with France alone, has ended so badly that Sir Charles Dilke is driven to the despairing hope that even here the delicate machinery of the European Concert "might prove of value." The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs indignantly denies that our Egyptian policy has been based on the personal influence of M. Gambetta, or that Lord Granville made any objection to the despatch of the famous Note, the significance of which he has since been at such pains to explain away. These are interesting denials, no doubt, but they do not improve the situation. It is in Asia, however, that events have falsified most conspicuously the forecasts of a too-confident Government. No attempt is made now on the Treasury Benches to ignore or ridicule the facts connected with the Russian advance. Whether the earlier Ministerial announcements were such as the country had a right to expect from a Government which is nothing if not candid, is a matter which, no doubt, will be fully discussed by-and-by. It is enough to note that as to part of the new frontier claimed by Russia, negotiations are now admitted to be on foot. Sir Charles Dilke, indeed, tells us that, after all, the farthest point of the new Russian frontier is one hundred and fifty miles from Sarakhs. But this piece of news, which to-day passes as surprising, would two years ago have been called the dream of an unscrupulous alarmist.—*Standard*.

THE MONETARY DILEMMA OF THE UNITED STATES.

The rapidity with which the New York exchange on London turns in favour of England when the American exports of produce fall off is a most striking proof, if not of the comparative unprofitableness of American foreign trade, at all events of the heavy indebtedness of America abroad. This indebtedness is only temporarily modified by the changes in the holding of American stocks, because in its largest and most exacting form it represents the permanent disadvantages under which the foreign trade of the States labours. The profit of that trade when it is at its best is greater to the foreigner than to the native, who indeed "makes money" only in exceptional seasons. Hence, the conditions of United States business are, so to say, permanently unstable. It cannot stand the least adversity, and every forward movement is followed by a tumble back into the depths as surely as night follows day. It is some months now since we ventured to point out that a recoil in American prosperity was impending. At that time it was still the fashion for Americans to gloat over the immense stores of gold that their country was accumulating. All and sundry were apparently quite oblivious of the fact, patent to most outside observers, that this gold was in some measure a curse to the country. It was promoting inflation in all directions. By its means powerful "rings" were enabled to play havoc with the trade of the country, exportation was checked in the leading staples out of which the Americans make their profits, and at the same time imports of manufactures were stimulated by the high prices ruling. Within the States

PARIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1882.

early on Thursday evening he would go on with his Resolutions on Procedure.

The House adjourned at five minutes to 6 o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OXBORNE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon accompanied by the Hon. Horatio Stoopend, and her Maids of Honour drove this morning with the Princesses and attended Canon and Mrs. Prothero with a visit. The Prince of Wales, as President of the Royal Commission of the Sydney Exhibition, has presented to the Queen a copy of the report which has been issued by the commission.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, was present at the second Royal Amateur Orchestral Society concert at St. Andrew's Hall, Newman-street, on Wednesday evening.

The Queen sent on Wednesday to Sloane-street to make inquiry respecting the health of Mr. Charles Villiers, who is now making favourable progress towards convalescence.

The Prince of Wales visited Sir Michael Costa at 53, Ecclestone-square, on Wednesday evening.

On Wednesday the Empress of Austria hunted with the North Staffordshire hounds, which met at Madeley. A fox was found early, and half an hour's capital run resulted in it being killed. Afterwards a good stretch of country was gone over with no result, and before three hours' Majesty and suite left, and arrived back at Wrenbury soon after four. The day was unfavourable, snow, hail, and rain falling at intervals.

Count Munster had a dinner party at the German Embassy, Carlton-house-terrace, on Wednesday evening, when there were present.—The Italian Ambassador and the Marquis Menabrea, the French Ambassador, the United States Minister, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Selborne, Count d'Albigny, Count Cavour, Menabrea, the Right Hon. the Speaker and Lady Brand, and Lady Brett, Sir Thomas and Lady Erskine May, Sir Henry James, Colonel Descharmes, Mr. A. de Rothschild, the Councillor of the Embassy, M. F. Stumm, and Colonel von Vietinghoff.

The Duke of Abercorn arrived at Hampden House from Baron's Court on Wednesday evening.

The Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Alexandra Leveson-Gower have arrived at Sutherland Tower, her Grace's villa, at Torquay, where her Grace intends residing for some time.

The Marchioness of Headfort and Miss Wilson have arrived at 46, Belgrave-squares, from Ireland.

The Earl and Countess Montagu, in consequence of a telegraphic message received on Tuesday night from Rome informing them of the very serious illness of the Hon. Henry S. Pierrepont from fever, left for Italy on Wednesday morning. The Hon. Henry Pierrepont is their youngest son, and is visiting Rome with his private tutor.

The Earl of Wilton, according to the bulletin issued by his medical advisers at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, "has had some hours' sleep during the night; there is no material change in his lordship's condition this morning." No further information had been received from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, on Wednesday evening.

Lord Lillford and the Hon. T. C. Powys have left Paris's Hotel, George-street, Hanover-square, to join his lordship's yacht in the Mediterranean.

Lady Lillford and the Countess of Charnley have left Paris's Hotel, George-street, Hanover-square, for the South of France.

The Hon. Hugo Charteris has arrived in St. James's-Place from Naples, having completely recovered from his recent illness. Louche and Lady Margaret Cameron have arrived at Montagu House.

tunate heroine's childhood and training that he had absolutely no space left for observations on the play. Lady Martin does not quite adopt this method; but she has, nevertheless, much to say regarding Juliet's early years, which the poet has unfortunately omitted to disclose. Her study of this character generally was governed, she tells us, by the idea that "Romeo and Juliet were no common lovers; that in their persons they must be pure, beautiful, generous characters, who, like the spartan Iphigenia, to be offered up as a worthy sacrifice to the gods, as an aspiration for the past, a healing and propitiation for the future, and in such wise that the remembrance of their deaths should make impossible any other enmity—each party alike sharing in the woeful penalty." As Lady Martin's essays relate exclusively to characters in which Miss Ellen Terry has recently appeared, or is about to appear in conjunction with Mr. Irving, it would perhaps have been well if we had been told whether the author of these two distinguished performers last summer of the scenes between Helen and Modus in *The Hatchet* included in the essayist's incidental sweeping condemnation of the modern fashion of acting this portion of Sheridan Knowles's play. Lady Martin remarks that "it was sheer ennui, and not forwardness, that made Helen in the dull country house amuse herself with Modus;" and she adds, "I shudder to think what I have seen these scenes reduced to in late years." Yet a strong case might perhaps be made out for the view that there was some degree of "forwardness" in Helen's mode of extorting a declaration of love from her backward admirer. At this, and more of this kind, is the writer's interesting recollection of Miss Taylor, the original Helen, in the course of which she rather tartly observes, "I cannot but think what a different play *The Hatchet* was then, when Helen was interpreted by a lady. Her refinement of manner took nothing away from the archness and piety of her scenes with Modus, but rather added to them." Hints from Miss Helen Faust as to the proper way of playing this character will no doubt receive the attention to which they are unquestionably entitled; but if these remarks have any special reference to Miss Ellen Terry they must be expected to incur that amount of distrust which is apt to attach to a retired actress's observations on her former success. If we fear, however, that the charge of "forwardness" and of the exhibition of a "coming-on disposition" have already been made in the pages of *Blackwood* against Miss Ellen Terry in an article generally attributed to Sir Theodore Martin; and unfortunately the rather harsh observations of the writer of that paper on certain of her impersonations were not corroborated by the impressions of any other critic. To most observers we should suppose that refinement would appear to be the quality above all others which distinguishes Miss Ellen Terry's acting.—*Daily News*.

EXPLOSION OF INFERNAL MACHINES.

Two explosions of infernal machines occurred on Wednesday evening in two different parts of Edinburgh. In one instance the box was taken to the house, No. 6, Hill-place, occupied by Mr. Alex. McDonald, and on its being opened it was found to be fitted with three drawers. On an attempt being made to draw out the one in the centre an explosion occurred, which injured Mr. McDonald, his mother, a girl, and a lady visitor, who were in the room, while the father was knocked down in the passage. The girl, aged four years, was so severely burned that she was removed to the Royal Infirmary. The second explosion occurred at 19, South St. James-street, in a house occupied by Mrs. John Barron. A similar box had been received there, and on opening it two seconds were blown out by the force of the explosion. The clothes of Mrs. Barron and of her son and daughter-in-law, caught fire. They were all three removed to the Royal Infirmary.

A man named Charles Costella, alias Andrew Wilson, has been apprehended in connection with the infernal machine outrages. Proceedings were taken against Costella twelve-months ago for following Miss Barron, and since then she and McDonald, who had had some financial transactions with the prisoner, had received threatening letters from him.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

There is not the least occasion for any anxiety concerning the Queen's health. Her Majesty is going abroad merely from a very natural wish for a complete change of scene, and after two years of Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral, a desire for a little variety is only natural, especially as new faces are so seldom seen at Court. It is not only the same routine at the same places, but always the same people. It must be remembered, moreover, that the Queen does a great deal of hard work; her State business is very laborious, and she has a vast mass of private affairs to look after.

The Queen signified her intention of going to the Continent about a month ago; but it was not till Wednesday last that a trip to Mentone was decided on. The Villa Hohenlohe, at Baden, which the Queen bought after her sister's death, in which she passed Easter 1880, was the original residence, then Switzerland, Coburg, the Italian Lakes, Biarritz, and Pegli, were all considered; and the Queen received strong recommendations in favour of the two last places from some of her relatives. Her Majesty has long desired to visit the Bay of Naples, and she would probably have gone to Sorrento but for the troublesome journey, and the fact that it would take a week for a messenger to go there and return.

No date has yet been fixed for the Queen's departure. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice will travel from London to Portsmouth, whence they will proceed to the *Victoria* and *Albert* to Cherbourg. It is not yet decided whether the journey through France will be completed without a break, or whether a stay of twenty-four hours will be made at the *Porte de Paris*. The *Carlingford* will probably go to Mentone as *Minder* in *Attendance*, and Sir William Jenner will accompany her Majesty and remain with the Court during her absence.

The newspapers call the *saints* of Prince Leopold, Helena, and the Queen's Speech alludes to her as Helen. Her real name is Helena.

Gladys, Countess of Lonsdale, will not present enjoy the dower house attached to the Dowager's, as it is already tenanted by the wife of a former earl. As her jointure, however, is £3,000 per annum, and her daughter is also provided for, she is a tolerably wealthy widow.

I hear that Mr. Bernal Osborne's will, which bequeathed the greater part of his fortune to his son, the Hon. Osborne Beaumont, was revoked by another, according to which he leaves it between the younger children of the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, with the exception of a legacy of £4,000 to the children of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Blake. The extensive Irish estates of the late Mrs. Osborne now belong to the Duchess of St. Albans, from whom they will pass to her eldest son in strict settlement.

Judging from the experiences of an "ex-Captain of Militia," extravagant mess expenses seem to be as much the rule in that branch of the service as in the regular army. His mess account after the twenty-six days of annual training amounted to £31 10s.; of this £22 10s. was for mess bill, £11 10s. for wine, and £17 for share of ball and "contingent expenses." Having remonstrated with the commanding officer on the score of this inore

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at quarter past 12 o'clock.

THE REPORT ON THE ADDRESS.

On the report of the Address being brought up.

Sir H. Wolff made some comments on the condition of foreign affairs generally; and speaking of Mr. Errington's speech, in which he had called upon the Government to consent to carry on negotiations in an unconstitutional manner without the knowledge of Parliament, he called on them to give the House further information as to the real nature of the mission.

Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT also strongly condemned the foreign policy of the Government, which, he said, had sacrificed the honour of the country and had deprived us of all influence in Europe. In particular he appealed to the Government to make a frank admission of their failure to insist and persist according to its sense of the public interests involved, and would defy the accuser to the proof of its having gone beyond the measure of its duty so defined. Now, [if a great party] may obstruct, it is hazardous to award a narrower discretion to a small one; for it is precisely in the class of cases where the party is small, and the conviction strong, that the best instances of obstructive obstruction might be found.] Where the party is large, it has ample means of procuring its views a sufficient consideration; insomuch as [it] could not be, unless those views had already been given full play, and of course attention had been paid to it by the public.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 16-17, 1882.

THE TAUNTON ELECTION.

The result of the Taunton Election on Thursday is both gratifying and encouraging to the Conservative party, especially when viewed in relation to the electioneering history of the last few months.

Mr. Allissop has been returned by a majority of two hundred and twenty-seven over Lord Kilcoursie, an opponent of very considerable ability, and whose presence in the House would have been hailed with satisfaction by those interested in strengthening Mr. Gladstone's militant majority. But no matter how the event is regarded, the electoral satisfaction will be forced to see in the figures irresistible evidence, not perhaps of an Opposition gain, but of a legitimate Opposition triumph. At the last Election Sir W. Palliser the Conservative who was highest on the poll, obtained one thousand and eighty-four votes. Mr. Allissop on Thursday polled one thousand one hundred and forty-four, so that the Conservatives had increased their strength by sixty.

Sir Henry James, the Liberal, polled at the General Election one thousand; on the present occasion Lord Kilcoursie has only received nine hundred and seventeen votes, showing that the Liberal forces have been reduced since 1880 by eighty-three votes. It will probably be said that a great many Conservatives in the borough out of personal regard for the Attorney-General give him one of their votes, and that it is not right to compare Lord Kilcoursie's poll with those of the lowest Conservative and lowest Liberal at the General Election in 1880. At that time Mr. Cargill, who stood with Sir W. Palliser, received nine hundred and seventy-one votes, or fifty-four more than Lord Kilcoursie polled on Thursday, whilst Mr. Eykyn, who was the Attorney-General's colleague, polled nine hundred and sixty-eight votes, or fifty-one more than were cast for Lord Kilcoursie. But the return of Mr. Allissop is chiefly remarkable inasmuch as it gives us an indication of the drift of public opinion. On this subject the advisers of the Ministry are not so shrewd or experienced as the late Mr. W. P. Adam, and it is feared they are just now seriously misleading their leaders. They ignore those destructive forces of reaction, slow and stealthy in their operation, but sure and deadly in their results, which are eating away their majority in the constituencies. The advisers of the Ministry foolishly allow themselves to be deceived by the provincial caucuses, and with equal folly, permit their masters to fall victims to this deception. If, as they say, they are confident the country is still with them, how do they account for the almost unbroken series of Conservative triumphs which has made the electioneering history of the Recess so remarkable. Beginning with the victory of Mr. Lowther in North Lincoln, and the equally significant success of Sir George Elliot in North Durham, we have also to count the returns of Mr. Salt for Stafford, and Mr. Dawney for the North Riding, of Mr. Railton, unopposed by the Local Liberal leaders, for Preston, and of Lord Albermarle for Westminster. All these victories point in one direction, and enforce the same lesson. What that lesson is there can be no doubt. The popularity of the Ministry is waning. The feeling of the country is manifestly rising against Mr. Gladstone, and the tide which promises once more to float the Opposition to power, has already, perhaps, rather unexpectedly, begun to flow with a current both swift and strong.—*Standard*.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BASUTOS.

We believe that at the present moment the Cape Government have under consideration a proposal for dealing with the Basuto difficulty which may be attended with important consequences to the peace of South Africa:—

A large portion of the disaffected Basutos have refused to carry out the terms of the Governor's award, especially that part of it which required them to give up the cattle which they captured from the loyal natives during the war. Mr. Orpen, the British Resident, has shown much patience in his efforts to induce the Masses section of the tribe to obey Sir Hercules Robinson's award, as well as strenuously to insist on the hands of the loyal party, in order to enable them to recover possession of their property. More than once he has apparently been at the point of success, but unfortunately the bitter and distrustful feelings which the war has excited among the Basutos have thus far prevented the settlement of the difficulty. Two or three courses are open to the Cape Ministry. The first is to repeal the Basutoland Annexation Act, and to insist upon the Imperial Government resuming control of the country. It is urged in favour of this course that the Basutos are loyal to the Queen, and that even those who took up arms against the colony did not believe that they were fighting against her Government. In the colony many importers of the Ministry are anxious to have the Basutos should be placed under the Colonial Office; and Mr. Upington, who was Attorney-General under Mr. Syrigg, has also expressed his intention to advocate the same policy. A second course would be to withdraw British authority altogether from Basutoland, and to restore to the Basutos the independence which they formerly enjoyed.

Under the circumstances the semi-official organ could hardly be expected to stand between the lines the article which I have mentioned leaves the impression that the Government hopes the Basutians will not get the upper hand, but that should they succeed in doing so they will find Austria pre-pared for the consequences.

their authority in Basutoland, and to give them full power to do this in their own way. This is the particular method of settling the difficulty which now appears to be under consideration, but as it may involve the responsibility—pecuniary and otherwise—of a renewal of hostilities, and also the discredit which would undoubtedly result from the confiscation of native territory, it is not surprising that Mr. Scanlan and his colleagues at Cape-town should take time to consider their decision.—*Daily News*.

OUTRAGES ON JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The *Daily Telegraph* has received the following despatch, dated Feb. 16, from its Vienna correspondent:—

The following facts connected with the persecutions of Jews in Russia may be source of some surprise and alarm:—At Ellingen, Kieff, Odessa, Novorossia, Peczov, Kona, and Praslov about 250 women were outraged by the Jewish bairns. At Kieff the assailants broke into a house where the tenant's daughter was going to be married. First they violated the young woman, and then destroyed every object they could lay hands upon, including the poor girl's trousseau. While this odious scene was being enacted, one of them played the piano, which was afterwards broken to pieces and thrown out of the window. During the disturbances at Kieff several notabilities of the town applied to General Drehteln, who had not received any money from the Government for expenses, and had incurred no expenses except outlay in travelling for his own pleasure.

Lord ORMONDE understood the statement of the Foreign Secretary to amount to an announcement that in Mr. Errington we had an unofficial and unpaid agent at the Vatican.

Lord SALISBURY, whilst expressing no opinion as to the policy of having an agent at the Vatican, suggested that Lord Granville's phrase concerning Mr. Errington possessing the confidence of the Government, might be understood to mean more than the Foreign Secretary intended. If, as used by the noble earl, it only meant that Mr. Errington was a good enough man to be employed by the Government, it did not convey as much as it might. He suggested further that the ambiguity of the Ministerial explanations caused more importance to be attached to Mr. Errington's position in Rome than would otherwise be attributed to it.

Lord GRANVILLE explained that what he had intended to convey by "confidence" was the esteem referred to by Lord Salisbury.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE OUTRAGE NEAR ARTAKI.

Lord GRANVILLE in answer to an inquiry by Lord Barrington read a telegram from Lord Dufferin, giving an account of the attack by Albanians on Captain Selby, and a further one stating that the gallant officer had slept and taken nourishment since he sustained his injuries.

MR. ERINGTON'S VISIT TO ROME.

Lord GRANVILLE, replying to a question from Lord Balfour, said he had no alterations in, or additions to, his plan, and given another place with regard to Mr. Errington's communications with the Vatican.

Mr. Errington being well known at Rome and possessing the confidence of her Majesty's Government, his visit to Rome, where he had gone for his own purposes to spend the winter, afforded a good opportunity for the communication of information to the Vatican. It was not usual to lay before Parliament papers which were not of a diplomatic and formal character. In consequence of a statement made in another place by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, he had telegraphed to Rome and received a reply containing Mr. Errington's assurance that he had not received any money from the Government for expenses, and had incurred no expenses except outlay in travelling for his own pleasure.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE NEW RULES.

Sir H. D. WOLFE gave notice to move an amendment to the Prime Minister's first resolution, to leave out the words "Chairman of a Committee," and to except Committees of the House from the operation of the rule (Opposition cheer).

In answer to various questions as to the New Rules, the Marquis of HARTINGTON gave notice that, as there appeared to be no likelihood of fining the debate on the Address at an early hour that evening, the New Rules would not be taken until Monday. They could not be *de die in diem* without the consent of the House, and if the first rule were passed it would not lie with the Government to say whether it should be applied to the discussion of the other rules.

THE QUEEN.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON (in the absence of Mr. Gladstone) replying to a question from Mr. Warton, said that neither he nor any of his colleagues had received any information as to the rumoured accident to the Queen, and they had no reason to think there was any foundation for it.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.

In reply to Mr. Cartington, Sir WILLIAM HARGREAVES said that the Public Prosecutor was alone responsible for the fact that proceedings had not been taken against the managers of St. Paul's School.

THE NORTH RIDING ELECTION.

Mr. COVEN was proposing to call attention as a matter of privilege to the interference of Lord Ripon and Lord Zetland in the North Riding of Yorkshire election, contrary to the standing order, but was informed by the Speaker that the long delay deprived the question of the priority of privilege: whereupon Mr. Cowen gave notice that he would bring the subject forward on motion at an early period.

NON-OFFICIAL WARFARE.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in a despatch dated Feb. 15, says:—

Although the inquiry connected with the Panslavist agitation in Galicia is not yet finished, there is already reason to believe that the authorities have made some very unpleasant discoveries, which render it difficult to draw the line between official and non-official Russia. The arrests at Lemberg have been followed by domiciliary searches at Czernowitz, Stanislaw, and other places in Galicia, and it may be taken for granted that the Government now hold the threads of the Panslavist conspiracy in their hands.

It apparently does not suit them to act upon the evidence thus obtained, though presumably the assurances of the friendly M. de Giers are estimated at their proper value. To-day a semi-official *Fremdenblatt* published a leading article on the subject evidently containing something to the effect that the writer's paper views. It begins by observing that it were idle to deny the existence of a powerful party in Russia which is doing everything to keep up and assist the insurrection in Krivosia and Herzegovina. Skoboleff's speech, the persistent echo which it finds in a large portion of the Russian press, the subscription for the oppressed Slavs, the mysterious journeys of Panslavist agitators to the Balkan countries are all eloquent symptoms that cannot be ignored. The League has directly forbidden the rents were fair and were not likely to be reduced, and the object, therefore, was not to facilitate the act, but to disgust the tenants with it. He showed, also, that the League had directly forbidden the rents were fair and that it enforced the "No-rent" Manifesto by outrage and murder. As to the test cases, he insisted that only those had been chosen by the League where the rents were fair and were not likely to be reduced, and the object, therefore, was not to facilitate the act, but to disgust the tenants with it. He showed, also, that the League had directly forbidden the rents were fair and that it enforced the "No-rent" Manifesto by outrage and murder. As to the test cases, he insisted that only those had been chosen by the League where the rents were fair and were not likely to be reduced, and the object, therefore, was not to facilitate the act, but to disgust the tenants with it. He showed, also, that the League had directly forbidden the rents were fair and that it enforced the "No-rent" Manifesto by outrage and murder. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 17—18, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE IRISH LAND ACT.

The Times, commenting on the debate in the House of Lords on Friday night on the working of the Irish Land Act, says the criticisms offered were the more pointed because they did not proceed from hostility to the principle of the Act itself. One speaker after another disavowed all intention of contorting it. Lord Donoughmore quibbled with the unexpected results, which are materially different from those alleged by its promoters; and this was the keynote of the debate. Several decisions which are not easily understood were referred to, and we cannot wonder at the murmurs of the sufferers. But could other results be looked for if "fair rent," that indefinite entity, is to be determined? As Lord Lansdowne observed, the estimate of a fair rent is as uncertain as the character of the men to whose judgments the question was submitted. It will vary with the length of each sub-commissioner's foot; and it will occasionally happen that hardships are inflicted in carrying out so vague and elastic a principle. A few picked instances of apparent injustice done under the cloak of a judicial decision, or some ill-disposed reason or hasty dicta in a sub-commissioner's judgment are, however, not conclusive. We are bound to look at the work done by the sub-commissioners as a whole, and it would be but fair to wait until their decisions are considerably more numerous. In the 1,300 cases already dealt with reductions have for the most part taken place. But it is intended that this fact is no criterion of the result of future proceedings, since high rents have for the most part been first brought before the courts, and time only can show the value of this plea. Descending to particulars, how is such an inquiry as is proposed to be conducted? Are the commissioners to close their courts and the sub-commissioners to be brought over to justify their decisions?

The debate will do good in making known the full extent of the hardships of an important class, and the apprehensions that, as Lord Cairns put it, the infant Hercules may strangle the Irish landlords, and not the Land League. But it would be a pity to throw discredit on the whole body of the sub-commissioners at the threshold of their labours; to blame them for failings which may be due to the inherent difficulty of the task assigned them by Parliament; and to destroy the chance that the Land Act may eventually introduce a reign of peace and contentment. With this hope Parliament passed, only a few months ago, a drastic and exceptional measure.

The Spectator urges that England does not desire chances of safety from sudden invasion, even if they are a million to one, but a certainty of safety so long as her fleet is afloat and decently commanded. She relies on the broad ditch, and any means whatever of turning that ditch involves for her danger such as, when fairly realized, would make her best men sick with fear.

So intense would be the impression of this danger, that it would lead to extreme measures, however of both parties will agree if England is to have a foreign policy, and especially if that policy is to be based upon a standing alliance of the Western Powers, the recurrence of panic as to French invasion must be prevented with as much care and as much skill as a French war. To foster such panics, and give them fresh reason, for the sake of a commercial gain, even if it were much larger than any we can hope for from a Channel tunnel, will appear to them political chicanery.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 10 - 20, 1882.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF'S SPEECH.

General Skobelev, as we are informed by our Paris correspondent, denies that he uttered the extraordinary language attributed to him by some of the Paris journals. If, indeed, this were the first example of General Skobelev's hellish orations, it would be almost incredible that he should have spoken of an ally of his country in terms only applicable to a declared enemy. We ourselves, however, as well as the Austrians, have had some experience of the delicate tact shown by this distinguished officer in his language concerning foreign countries. Thus, though it is possible that the fierce invective against Germans with which General Skobelev has been credited is in a great measure exaggerated, Englishmen will not be disinclined to believe that the speech in question was pugnacious, and calculated to create bad blood between Russia and Austria, as well as between Austria and the Slavs on her border. It is high time that these inflammatory and disquieting harangues from men in the high position of General Skobelev should be summarily stopped. The restraint under which Gen. Skobelev and all Russians who share his opinions are chafing is the restraint exercised by German diplomacy over Russian policy. The Czar went to Dantzig, and was cordially received; but the price of the reception was the assumption and maintenance of a passive attitude between Austria and the Slavic malcontents she is striving to reduce to submission. Against this attitude of neutrality the patriotic soul of General Skobelev revolts. He knows perfectly well that it is that induces the Czar and his Ministers to look on with folded arms while the insurgents in Herzegovina are shot down or disarmed, while the Ruthenians of Galicia are vigilantly supervised, and while slowly but surely Austria-Hungary is pushing its influence eastward. Their formula would be "Hands off." If Europe insisted on the observation in letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin Russia would be satisfied. She agreed to that treaty, which was not a good one for her or for the Slavs beyond the Danube, but agreed to the later freedom from oppression. To be freed from Mahomet and then to be oppressed by the Holy Roman Empire would be intolerable. The Slavs would neither be Turk nor peasant rinden. Their determination should be made known to the world, so that diplomats, who were always ready to ignore them, should be compelled to face it and so avert war.

I here said, "I now understand why the Czar allows the war ship to be called after you." Skobelev's face appeared to hesitate about his answer. He had read in German telegrams about the christening of the ship. After reflecting an instant he alighted to a reported mission with which he was charged. It was a purely imaginary one. He had no mission from anybody, but had come on his own account to arouse Western feeling against clerical Austria, and to prevent misunderstanding. I asked in what the misapprehension lay. There was a notion that Skoblenko would lead to Russian domination. The more free the Adriatic Slavs were, the greater would be their difference from the Russian type.

In speaking of Germany no rabid antipathy or hostility was disclosed, but there was disappointment evinced at the indifference with which the German Government witnessed the infractions by Austria of the Berlin Treaty. An idea had taken root in Berlin that Russia had come disengaged out of the war. She had been taken up with her finances were disordered, she was undergoing a political crisis, but she had a cession of the semi-detached of the Balkan campaign would be easily won by another attempt to champion the oppressed Slavs. Germany could not attack. Russia without exposing herself to France. I said that the tempo of Franco was now essentially pacific, and that no statesman who avowed a war programme would have the country behind him. France, after Russia and Germany had exhausted themselves, might step in to recover Alsace and Lorraine, but it would be madness for any State thinking of a great campaign to align on an alliance with her.

I asked General Skobelev whether I might publish an account of the interview. He said, "With pleasure; but first repeat to me the conversation that has taken place, in order that I may be sure you understand me." I did so, and he was satisfied with my recapitulation. He spoke English fluently. It is easy to see that he is a man of trumpet to go, impressionable, enthusiastic, frank to transparency. His intuition and a powerful intellect, and the temperament of a Crusader. He is the Godfrey de Bouillon of the Slav race.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, and attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Empress in Waiting, arrived at the Castle at 5.30 p.m. yesterday from Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service this morning in the private chapel. The Rev. Thomas Roswell, Deputy Clerk of the Closet to the Queen and Canon of Westminster, preached the sermon. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught drove out this morning, accompanied by the Duke.

Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess of Teck) visited the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Saturday, and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of Westminster left Grosvenor House on Saturday for Eaton Hall, Chester.

The Duke of Marlborough has arrived at Thomas's Hotel from Blenheim Palace.

The Dowager Duchess of Cleveland completed her 90th year on Friday last and is in the enjoyment of excellent health, a few personal friends dining with her the same evening.

The Marquis Townshend started on Saturday, by the advice of his doctors, for a continental tour in the hope of re-establishing his health. The Marchioness remains in London with her children.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith have arrived in town from Scotland.

The following bulletin was received at Lord Wilton's house in Grosvenor-square on Sunday evening:—"The Earl of Wilton has had a restless night. There is no improve-

ment in his lordship's condition this morning."

Viscount Grey de Wilton left town on Sunday afternoon for Melton Mowbray.

At St. George's Church, Hanover-square, on Saturday, the infant daughter of Mr. W. Gladstone, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone, was baptised. A small family circle, comprising the Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone, Lord Blythe and Hon. Mary Stuart, Lady Lytton, Mr. Frederick Cavendish, Hon. L. Lytton, Mr. and Hon. Mrs. W. H. Gladstone attended the christening. The sponsors were Lord Blythe, Hon. Lady Baird, and Lady Frederick Cavendish. The Rev. Stephen Gladstone, rector of Hawarden, performed the baptismal rite. The infant taking the names of Evelyn Catherine.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone entertained Count Munster, Prince Lobanoff, the Marquis and Marchioness of Bath, Earl and Countess Sydney, the Earl of Cork, the Earl of Kenmare, Lord Carlingford, the Hon. T. G. Lytton, the Hon. Mary Stuart, Sir T. Brassey, M.P., Mr. W. H. Gladstone, M.P., and Mr. W. B. Richmond at dinner at the right hon. gentleman's official residence in Downing-street on Saturday evening.

The death is announced of the Hon. George Edgcumbe, uncle to the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, which took place on Saturday night at his residence, Stone Hall, Stonehouse.

The deceased gentleman, who was born in 1800, was attacked with paralysis about a week since, and never rallied. He was formerly in the diplomatic service.

THE FEARNEAU FRAUDS.

EXTRAORDINARY CONFESSION BY THE PRISONER.

Revelations of more startling character than any which have already been published with regard to the woman Fearneau were made on Sunday, confirming the belief which was entertained by the police that Fearneau was not the only person who profited by the extensive frauds. On the other hand, it is to be shown that some of the self-styled victims were either confederates in a great conspiracy, or, knowing of the frauds deliberately levied black mail upon the wealthy. The letters in the hands of the authorities prove conclusively that several persons, instead of being "ruined body and soul," have been continually receiving money from Fearneau. There are 390 letters from one person, nearly every one acknowledging the receipt of various sums from 7s. or 8s. to 3s. Another person who has bitterly complained of being a "victim" is now shown to have been a great gainer rather than a loser in consequence of his acquaintance with Fearneau. It is also clear that several individuals only pretended to believe that the woman was "Lord Clinton," and this with the view of getting money. Fearneau's servant stated most positively that many of the Birmingham "victims" were fully aware that her mistress was a woman; and, indeed, the discoveries already made seem to show that it was only with regard to their own pecuniary profit that several persons kept up, or tried to keep up, the deception.

"Well, what is it Russia wants to get?" said I interrupted. "Nothing for herself," said General Scobelev. "We are a people of idealists. We are capable of great enthusiasm, and very self-sacrifice. What do we want? Our brothers tyrannised over by Austria, who has made her first approach in Bosnia to domination over all the Slavs in the Balkan Peninsula. She was given in trust, and trust only, as the English were given Corfu, the two Slav provinces that she is now oppressing. She has no right to conscribe for her army the young men there, nor to interfere with the religion of the people. Clerical propaganda has been established by her. The Jesuits that were cleared out of France, Austria received with open arms. The Jesuit fathers are dressed up with her connivance as Greek Popes, and go about trying to entice the peasants from their faith." The Jesuits are consistent," I observed, "in trying to convert, but is it probable that any European Government would be so foolish as to institute a propaganda such as you describe?" General Scobelev declared that nothing was more certain than that all Russia would unite to combat the military clericalism of the Austrians in the States under her protection. Their formula would be "Hands off." If Europe insisted on the observation in letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin Russia would be satisfied. She agreed to that treaty, which was not a good one for her or for the Slavs beyond the Danube, but agreed to the later freedom from oppression. To be freed from Mahomet and then to be oppressed by the Holy Roman Empire would be intolerable. The Slavs would neither be Turk nor peasant rinden. Their determination should be made known to the world, so that diplomats, who were always ready to ignore them, should be compelled to face it and so avert war.

I here said, "I now understand why the Czar allows the war ship to be called after you."

Skobelev's face appeared to hesitate about his answer. He had read in German telegrams about the christening of the ship.

After reflecting an instant he alighted to a reported mission with which he was charged.

It was a purely imaginary one. He had no mission from anybody, but had come on his own account to arouse Western feeling against clerical Austria, and to prevent misunderstanding.

I asked in what the misapprehension lay. There was a notion that Skoblenko would lead to Russian domination. The more free the Adriatic Slavs were, the greater would be their difference from the Russian type.

The restraint under which Gen. Skobelev and all Russians who share his opinions are chafing is the restraint exercised by German diplomacy over Russian policy.

The Czar went to Dantzig, and was cordially received; but the price of the reception was the assumption and maintenance of a passive attitude between Austria and the Slavs on her border.

Against this attitude of neutrality the patriotic soul of General Skobelev revolts. He knows perfectly well that it is that induces the Czar and his Ministers to look on with folded arms while the insurgents in Herzegovina are shot down or disarmed, while the Ruthenians of Galicia are vigilantly supervised, and while slowly but surely Austria-Hungary is pushing its influence eastward.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19-20, 1882.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF'S SPEECH.

General Skobeleff, as we are informed by our Paris correspondent, denies that he uttered the extraordinary language attributed to him by some of the Paris journals. If, indeed, this were the first example of General Skobeleff's heliocentric orations, it would be almost incredible that he should have spoken of an ally of his country terms only applicable to a declared enemy. We ourselves, however, as well as the Austrians, have had some experience of the delicate tact shown by this distinguished officer in his language concerning foreign countries. Thus, though it is possible that the fierce invective against Germans with which General Skobeleff has been credited is in a great measure exaggerated, Englishmen will not be disinclined to believe that the speech in question was pugnacious, and calculated to create bad blood between Russia and Austria, as well as between Austria and the Slavs on her border. It is high time that these inflammatory and disquieting harangues from men in the high position of General Skobeleff should be summarily stopped. If the Russian Government professes to hold any check at all upon its officers, now is the time to exercise such a restraint. At a moment when Austria is engaged in the suppression of an insurrection in the Herzegovina we might expect Russia and Russian agents to be extraordinarily cautious in not lending colour to reports of Russian intrigues on the frontier. Information emanating from Vienna is to the effect that, in the opinion of the Austrian Government, derived no doubt from official Russian assurances, these reports are without foundation; and Count Kalnoky has already declared his confidence in Russian protestations of anxiety. On the other hand, the accounts which our Vienna correspondent gives of the alarming rumours that prevail throughout South Eastern Europe, culminating in the reported resignation of M. de Giers and the appointment of General Igatief to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, show an apprehension of danger which itself is an intolerable evil. It now becomes a primary international duty that Russia should cease to permit the embarrassment of an ally by the declamations or the acts of the Russian military caste. Gen. Skobeleff's tone is only a sample of the tone generally adopted by less prominent and less responsible men in and out of Russia. The Russian Government, by the laxness of its discipline, becomes morally responsible for a state of things distinctly endangering the peace of Europe. The Court of St. Petersburg is in duty bound to show to Austria by conduct as well as by bare professions that it loyally abides by the Berlin settlement. Austria is now following out the legitimate consequences of that settlement, signed by every party interested, by Turkey and by Russia herself. Austrians are entitled, in their difficult and delicate position, to the loyal support of all the signatories of the treaty. If, in carrying out that occupation sanctioned by the Powers, Austria has assumed somewhat strictly with a rare accustomed to the law Ottoman rule, that is no valid pretext for outside interference. Those who treat, like General Skobeleff, the financial and commercial progress of Austria in the Slav countries, as an armed invasion would seem determined to find something to quarrel about. The least Europe can expect is that all this rhetoric of persons in high places, all this declamation adverse to the peace of Europe, should be at once repudiated and repressed. However soon the Russian Government may disclaim responsibility for the sentiment, the position of the speaker cannot fail to breed alarm and suspensions in the financial, if not in the political, world. So far as the authority of the Czar in his partial seclusion extends, Europe has the right to ask that it shall be used to prevent the recurrence of firebrand speeches from Russian Generals, and most of all from the first of Russian Generals.—Times.

The Standard says:—General Skobeleff affects to be indignant at the report of his recent speech to the Servian students in Paris, to which, as he does not profess to be a politician, he considers too great importance has been attached. He complains that he has been much misrepresented in the matter, though he admits that the spirit of his remarks has been faithfully reproduced. Starting as he was, the speech, and yet more surprising, as was the reply of the Russian General, was the reply of the Russian Consul in Bulgaria, M. Chitrovo, to an Address presented to him a few days since by a Deputation from the Central Slav Committee of Moscow, the significance of these two curious incidents would be lost were not a distinction to be made between official, diplomatic, and governmental Russia on the one hand, and the formless, nameless, unaccredited Russia on the other, which feels, thinks, acts, and speaks in a semi-blind, semi-conscious, semi-articulate manner, quite independently of the Czar, of his Ministers, his Diplomats, and his army. General Skobeleff has won world-wide fame as a soldier, and his services were rendered under the authorised flag of the Russian nation. He has distinguished himself alike in Europe and in Asia, and his name and the name of the fields he won are sufficiently identified with the recognised glories of his country to give hap-

tismal titles to the Russian navy. But for all that, General Skobeleff has always been something more than a soldier of the Crown. He has taken care to maintain a vigorous and distinct personality of his own; and though he has served the Imperial Government of St. Petersburg with singular valour and fidelity, he has uniformly dissociated himself from its more prudent policy, and has not hesitated openly to repudiate all sympathy with its subordination of Slavonic yearnings to the preservation of a good understanding with the European Powers. In the language, therefore, which he has just employed there is nothing substantially new. He has only said what everybody knew he thought. It is the choice of time and place that has caused his words to resound through Europe. He has sent down the Funds at Vienna; he has raised a tremendous news-paper clamour at Berlin, and called forth an expression of the deepest sorrow and indignation from the German Emperor. That he should have done so is not wonderful. He has "caught up the whole of truth and uttered it," as far as the relation of Russia to Germany and Austria is concerned. "We are not at home in our own house," he says, or has been made to say. "The foreigner is everywhere, and his hand in everything. We are the dupes of his policy, the victim of his intrigues. If you wish to know the name of this foreigner, this intruder and intriguer, I will name him. It is the German." Language so downright and plain-spoken as this may possibly be unwise and ill-timed; but if anybody thinks it is extravagant, in the sense that it is untrue, he can have studied the existing political problem on the Continent to very little purpose. It is not to the various officials of German origin and German nomenclature, who are so widely and so actively employed in Russia, that General Skobeleff refers. If he had said, "I will name the intruder and intriguer; it is Prince Bismarck," he would have expressed his inmost thought more completely than he ventured to do. The restraint under which Gen. Skobeleff and all Russians who share his opinions are chafing is the restraint exercised by German diplomacy over Russian policy. The Czar went to Dantzig, and was cordially received; but the price of the reception was the assumption and maintenance of a passive attitude between Austria and the Slavonic malcontents she is striving to reduce to submission. Against this attitude of neutrality the patriotic soul of General Skobeleff revolts. He knows perfectly well it is that induces the Czar and his Ministers to look on with folded arms while the insurgents in Herzegovina are shot down or disarmed, while the Ruthenians of Galicia are vigilantly supervised, and while slowly but surely Austria-Hungary is pushing its influence eastward. It is the German, says General Skobeleff; and he is quite right. But if this state of things is to end, what is the alternative? General Skobeleff sees it, and does not shrink from it. "A struggle between the Slav and the Teuton is inevitable. It will be long, sanguinary, and terrible; but the Slav will triumph." That is to prophesy—a proverbially dangerous function. Yet no cautious observer will laugh at the prediction. The forces that would be brought into play by such a struggle would be many and complex. Were Russia avowedly to put itself at the head of a great Pan-Slavonic movement, there is not a root of ground between the Rhine and the Black Sea that would not feel the convulsion. Austria would have to fight for dear life, and thousands of those who are now denominated her subjects might be found arrayed against her. The powerful sword of Germany would nominally be at her disposal; but would not its edge be required to ward off assault upon the West? When General Skobeleff in Paris denounces "the German," he wakes a suppressed echo in other than Servian hearts. When he adds "we are dominated and paralysed by such an extent by his immoral and disastrous influences that, if we are to deliver ourselves from them, as I hope we shall some day or other, it must be done by us in sword in hand," he must know, and if he does not know others do, that he is uttering the thought dearer even to French than to Slavonic hearts.

We publish a telegram, says the *Daily News*, from our Paris correspondent describing an interesting conversation which he has had with General Skobeleff. Though the General complains that the French journals have exaggerated and distorted the remarks which he made to the Servian deputation, his tone was sufficiently heliocentric at the interview to which we have referred. If Austria continues, he said, to oppress the Slav population of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, there will be a great war. It is General Skobeleff's opinion that Europe will unite to combat the "military clericalism" of Austria, but it is at all events in his view the duty of Russia to rescue men of her own race from servitude to an alien Power. These threats are directly aimed at Austria-Hungary, but the General expressed annoyance at what he considered German indifference to Austrian aggression. The feeling at Berlin, which our correspondent in that city declares to be growing continually more bitter, is certainly not one of indifference to Russian menaces. The relation between the two countries has been no doubt changed for the worse by General Skobeleff's repeated outbursts of a sentiment to which militant patriotism is the very mildest phrase that can be applied. General Skobeleff, however, is not an agent of the Russian Government. He is a brilliantly successful commander, bent on making for himself a great career, and he may be willing to incur temporary disapproval, or even disgrace, in pursuit of future influence, for which he is young enough to wait. The pacific temper of the Czar, who is believed to be particularly desirous at the present time of a friendly understanding with Germany, is of more importance than what may be the calculation of a fiery soldier. It is rather to be hoped than expected that the internal troubles and disorder of Russia may increase her aversion from war. The correspondence respecting the treatment of the Jews in that country which has just been laid before Parliament, while it does not confirm the worst of the alleged outrages, tells a melancholy story of popular fury and administrative apathy.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SKOBELEFF.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing on Sunday night, says:—

Ascertaining that General Skobeleff had not

really quitted Paris, I called this afternoon and had nearly half an hour's conversation with him. I said to him "General, you have been interviewed by an editor of the *Voltaire*. An account has been given in *La France* of your answer to the Servian students. Are they both true?" "I received," said the General, "a journalist from the *Voltaire* and a Servian deputation, but what I said in both cases has been frightfully exaggerated." I said, jocosely, "I am glad to hear you say so; for to be frank, if you talked in the manner it is alleged, you did, it would be the duty of Mr. Fremantle to call you to the bar." "No," answered General Skobeleff, "you surely cannot mean that." "Personally I am against all expulsions, but as the object of the French Government is to keep out of hot water and in peace with the world, I think it would be only logical, had you spoken as you are represented, to request you to leave France." "Is that your impression?" he asked. "Certainly," I returned. "I repeat," he said, "that the French journalists have terribly and ridiculously exaggerated what I said. I did not come to you to arouse a storm, but to avert one, which, as you only know, frank speaking, if I say so, that the disagreeable fact exists, I am not responsible for its existence." "What is the fact?" I inquired.

"That a great war is inevitable?"

I interrupted. "Nothing for herself," said General Skobeleff. "We are a people of idealists, and love self-sacrifice. What do we see?" Our brothers tyrannised over us, Austria, who has made her first approach in Bosnia, who is extending over the Balkans in the Balkan Peninsula. She was given in trust, and trust only, as the English were given Corfu, the two Slav provinces that she is now oppressing. She has no right to conspire for her army, the young men there, nor to interfere with the religion of the people. A clerical propaganda has been established by her. The Jesuits that were cleared out of France, Austria received with open arms. The Jesuit fathers are dressed up with their connivance as Greek Popes, and go about trying to entice the peasants from their faith. The Jesuits are consistent, I observed, "in trying to convert, but is it possible that any Government would be so foolish as to institute a propaganda, such as you describe?" General Skobeleff declared that nothing was more certain than that all Russia would unite to combat the military clericalism of the Austrians in the States under her protection. Their formula would be "Hands off." If Europe insisted on the observation in letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin Russia would be satisfied. She agreed to that treaty, which was not a good one for her or for the Slavs below the Danube; but it secured to us the freedom of the opposition. To be freed from Mahomet and led to be oppressed by the Holy Roman Empire would be intolerable. The Slavs would neither be Turk nor Jesuit ridden. Their determination should be made known to the world, so that diplomats, who were always for ignoring the truth, should be compelled to face it and so avert war.

I here said, "I now understand why the Czar allows the war ship to be called after you." Skobeleff's face appeared to hesitate about his answer. He had read in German telegrams about the christening of the ship. After reflecting an instant he allowed to a reporter what he had said to him at Berlin, that Russia had come dislocated out of the war. She had been weakened: her finances were disordered; she was undergoing a political crisis; but she had a population of 80,000,000, and the discontent aroused by the semi-results of the Balkan campaign would be cured by another attempt to champion the oppressed Slavs. Germany could not attack Russia without exposing herself to France. I said that the temper of France was now essentially pacific, and that no statesman who avowed a war programme would have the country behind him. France, after Russia and Germany had exhausted themselves, might step in to recover Alsace and Lorraine, but it would be madness for Austria to make out of a great campaign to build on an alliance with her.

I asked General Skobeleff whether I might publish an account of the interview. He said,

"With pleasure; but first repeat to me the conversation that has taken place, in order that I may be sure you understand me."

I did so, and he was satisfied with my recapitulation. He spoke English fluently.

It is easy to see that he is a man of tremendous "go," impressionable, enthusiastic, frank to transparency. He has intuition and a powerful intellect, and the temperament of a Crusader. He is the Godfrey de Bouillon of the Slav race.

In speaking of Germany no rabid antipathy or hostility was disclosed, but there was disappointment evinced at the indifference with which the German Government witnessed the infractions by Austria of the Berlin Treaty. I then asked him what he thought of Berlin, that Russia had come dislocated out of the war. She had been weakened: her finances were disordered; she was undergoing a political crisis; but she had a population of 80,000,000, and the discontent aroused by the semi-results of the Balkan campaign would be cured by another attempt to champion the oppressed Slavs. Germany could not attack Russia without exposing herself to France. I said that the temper of France was now essentially pacific, and that no statesman who avowed a war programme would have the country behind him. France, after Russia and Germany had exhausted themselves, might step in to recover Alsace and Lorraine, but it would be madness for Austria to make out of a great campaign to build on an alliance with her.

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NICE 4—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 21—22, 1882.

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The majority of the House were completely taken by surprise, on Tuesday, at the open violation of the authority of the House and of the Speaker by Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Randolph Churchill was the first to submit a rather carelessly-worded motion for a new writ, on the ground that Mr. Bradlaugh had vacated his seat by sitting without previously taking the oath. The Attorney-General pointed out the legal difficulties involved. It was not certain that Mr. Bradlaugh's improvised oath was not sufficient to satisfy the statute. The statute, again, was directed against members who sat "during a debate" without previously taking the oath. There was no question before the House at the time, and consequently it might be argued that Mr. Bradlaugh had not rendered himself liable to the penalties of the statute. Mr. Gladstone added his advice in favour of proceeding with deliberation. Dr. Lyons eventually gave notice of his intention to move that Mr. Bradlaugh having been guilty of a profanation, he is declared to be incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance." This motion, equivalent to a proposal of expulsion, was favourably received, and, the debate having been adjourned, will possibly be agreed to by the House. In the meanwhile, it may be well to point out what are the issues raised by this scandalous piece of Parliamentary indecorum. First, is Mr. Bradlaugh's informal repetition of the words of the oath a taking of the oath? Secondly, if it is not, has Mr. Bradlaugh vacated his seat and rendered himself liable to pecuniary penalties? Thirdly, is the attempt to take the oath such an affront to the House as will warrant punishment? Upon the last question there can be little doubt that Mr. Bradlaugh deserves and Parliament is entitled to inflict punishment of some sort. Mr. Bradlaugh is refused permission to take the oath, and in the face and in defiance of the whole House he advances to the table and goes through the form which the House had declared in his lips would be a farce. Whether it would be most expedient to visit Mr. Bradlaugh's conduct with expulsion, or to select some chastisement less congenial to Mr. Bradlaugh himself, will be a matter for the consideration of the House. Most persons will be disposed to agree that Mr. Bradlaugh's action will have damaged him immensely in the opinion even of his friends and, as he may find, of the electors of his constituency. But the worst of it is that Mr. Bradlaugh's detriment is achieved at the expense of the dignity of the House. We would ask, further, what guarantee there is against the repetition of these scenes and against the revival of the difficulties which led to them. Mr. Bradlaugh may be expelled, and he may fail to secure re-election for Northampton. But there is nothing to prevent another constituency adopting Mr. Bradlaugh, or, failing him, an analogue of Mr. Bradlaugh. There is no prospect of rest, in fact, from these interminable scenes of confusion and indecorum unless a bill should be passed to obviate their recurrence. In jostling with Mr. Bradlaugh the House gets the worst of it. Why allow a state of things to continue in which it is possible to jostle with Mr. Bradlaugh or another of his opinions?—Times.

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The excitement produced throughout Germany by General Skobelev's anti-German speeches continues unabated. If there was one thing which could have allayed the national indignation and alarm, it was a prompt, candid, and unmistakeable disavowal of Skobelev's insults by the Government of the Czar. If, moreover, there was one thing which, in German official and non-official circles, was this morning regarded as certain, it was that in the course of the day we should hear that such a full, plain, and prompt repudiation had actually been made by Russia. Such being the universal feeling here, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound dismay and indignation produced by the news received this afternoon from St. Petersburg respecting the late and half-muddled explanations published by the Russian officials. The hope that the Czar would, without delay, administer a pointed rebuke to the offender, and thus soothe the wounded susceptibilities of the German nation, has been egregiously disappointed. And this disappointment, in its effects, is almost equivalent to the infliction of another actual insult. Moreover, everything we hear only contributes to aggravate the popular excitement, and widen the breach which has so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and populous Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a Russian Consul in one of the Balkan Principalities had, if anything, out-Heroed Herod, and hurled against Germany and Germany's ally India greater than those so heedlessly uttered in the same direction by the late Countess Spencer, the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Cremona, Colonel Hon. F. Bridgeman, Colonel Digby, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baring, and Mr. Charteris. Later they received a small and early party. The Earl and Countess of Malmsbury have left Heron Court for Bath. His lordship is under treatment for acute gout.

Bishop Clapham, the Archdeacon of London and Chaplain-General of the Forces, is at present unable to fulfil his duties as canon in residence at St. Paul's owing to indisposition. The archdeacon, since his return from his diocese of Colombo, Ceylon, has been a frequent preacher in London, and taken most of the confirmations for the bishop. This, combined with his duties of chaplain-general, has resulted in a strain upon his constitution.

Lord and Lady Lamington and the Hon. Violet Cochrane Beaufort were at 26, Wilton-crescent, from Belvoir Castle.

Lord Norton continues confined to his room with an attack of gout. He is under the care of Dr. Erichsen and Dr. Lavies.

Eliza Lady Prescott died on Monday at her residence in Grafton-street. The deceased lady was the youngest daughter of Mr. Henry Hillier, and married the late Sir George William Prescott, Bart. (his second wife) in July, 1845, and was left a widow in April, 1850, and was mother of the present baronet, Sir George Redleshaw Prescott.

The Hon. Robert and Mrs. Milnes have arrived at Somersett House, Park-lane.

Sir Charles Wyke, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., returned to Bolton-row on Tuesday from Torquay.

EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

The following document was signed by the Controllers-General, MM. de Blignières and Colvin, at Cairo, on the 6th inst.:—

"When the degrees regulating the powers of the Controllers were promulgated the real power belonged to the Khedive, and by delegation to his Ministers. If the Controllers-General were confined to the right of giving advice it will be to presume that their advice would receive just appreciation. This expectation has been realized, and the financial situation of the country, which was so grave two years ago, is now as prosperous. But since then the power has shifted. It now belongs to the Chamber of Delegates and to several military chiefs whose influence it is infinitely more discreditable than the display of physical strength to which he resorted last session. Then he risked something; yesterday he risked nothing. He took an insolent and scandalous advantage of the tolerance accorded to him by the House, and in virtue of which he occupies a seat on the cross benches below the bar. The step required nothing more than wanton effrontery. It was unredeemed by any touch of even the coarsest intrepidity. By a subterfuge that the lowest of smart attorneys would scorn, Mr. Bradlaugh made a show of taking the Oath. He was not probed from doing so, because he acted with a suddenness which surprised the House, and in a manner which, when they read of the incident of Tuesday, will outrage the feelings of all sections of the public. The general verdict, we are convinced, will be that, whatever claim to consideration Mr. Bradlaugh may have, he has irretrievably forfeited. The English people in the case even of the meanest men, like to see fair play, and have no objection to stand-up fight. But then they expect that the play shall be fair all round, and they resent indignantly such pitiful trickery as that exhibited by Mr. Bradlaugh on Tuesday. But while there can be no doubt that the House of Commons would receive the sanction of public opinion if it were to proceed sum-

marily to expel Mr. Bradlaugh, the position which he legally occupies, after the monstrous travesty of Tuesday, is by no means clear. That he took the oath, in one sense, is as certain as that the manner in which he took it was not in accordance with the formalities of the House, which require that the oath shall be 'solemnly and publicly made and subscribed.' The Attorney-General declined to express an opinion 'whether what the member for Northampton had done had been a taking of the oath' within the meaning of the Statute. 'The House,' he continued, 'had prescribed no manner in which it should be taken, except that it should be taken at the table. Whether all the conditions as to the taking of the oath had been fulfilled, in face of the resolution that Mr. Bradlaugh should not take it,' Sir Henry James refused to say. The occasion of these remarks was a motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, declaring that a vacancy had occurred in the borough of Northampton, and charging Mr. Bradlaugh with having 'since his election sat in the House of Commons without having taken or subscribed the Oath, according to law.' This resolution was, of course, equivalent to one for Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion, and the House of Commons was well advised in adjourning the debate.

The *Daily News* observes:—Mr. Bradlaugh has of course put himself in a false position by his direct disobedience to a resolution of the House. He has put into the hands of his opponents a strong weapon. The House might proceed to expel him on the ground of this disobedience. On the other hand it is possible that he may be found to have legally complied with the obligation of the statute by taking the oath by surprise in the face of the whole House. Mr. Labouchere appealed for delay in order that the legal point might be tried; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out with great force, as the Attorney-General had already intimated, that the question raised of insult to the House differed entirely from, and must not be confounded with, Mr. Bradlaugh's legal position. As to the insult, it seems to us that the House has on former occasions received greater provocation from Mr. Bradlaugh than that which he offered on Tuesday. His manner at least was respectful, and there was a novel accent of timidity instead of defiance in his voice. Mr. Gladstone, on behalf of the Government, has promised to consider what course can be taken in the entirely novel circumstances in which the House is placed; but they have a right to ask that Sir Stafford Northcote and his friends, who have led the House into this vexatious difficulty, should themselves indicate some means of possible extrication from it.

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THE RUSSO-GERMAN CRISIS.
The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—
"The German press, throughout Germany, by General Skobelev's anti-German speeches continues unabated. If there was one thing which could have allayed the national indignation and alarm, it was a prompt, candid, and unmistakable disavowal of Skobelev's insults by the Government of the Czar. If, moreover, there was one thing which, in German official and non-official circles, was this morning regarded as certain, it was that in the course of the day we should hear that such a full, plain, and prompt repudiation had actually been made by Russia. Such being the universal feeling here, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound dismay and indignation produced by the news received this afternoon from St. Petersburg respecting the lukewarm and half-hearted explanations offered by the Russian official party. The fact that the Czar would, without delay, administer a pointed rebuke to the offender, and thus soothe the wounded susceptibilities of the German nation, has been egregiously disappointed. And this disappointment, in its effects, is almost equivalent to the infliction of another actual insult. Moreover, everything we hear only contributes to aggravate the popular excitement, and widen the breach which has been so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and populous Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a Russian Consul in one of the Balkan Principalities has, if anything, out-Heroded Herod, and hurled against Germany and Germany's ally insults grosser than those so heedlessly flung in the same direction by the ablest General in the Russian service. Another day we hear of Hungarian statesmen intriguing with the Hungarians, and endeavouring to weaken Austria by setting up therefrom an alliance to her, in order to attain this end by encouraging the hare-brained 'Party of Independence' in the almost inconceivable folly from which it derives at once its name and its condemnation. Such indirect blows at Germany, through her ally, naturally only tend to deepen the prevailing bitterness."

marily to expel Mr. Bradlaugh, the position which he legally occupies, after the monstrous travesty of Tuesday, is by no means clear. That he took the oath, in one sense, is as certain as that the manner in which he took it was not in accordance with the formalities of the House, which require that the oath shall be "solemnly and publicly made and subscribed." The Attorney-General declined to express an opinion "whether what the member for Northampton had done had been a taking of the oath" within the meaning of the Statute. "The House," he continued, "had prescribed no manner in which it should be taken, except that it should be taken at the table. Whether all the conditions as to the taking of the oath had been fulfilled, in face of the resolution that Mr. Bradlaugh should not take it," Sir Henry James refused to say. The occasion of these remarks was a motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, declaring that a valuation had occurred in the borough of Northampton, and charging Mr. Bradlaugh with having "since his election sat in the House of Commons without having taken or subscribed the Oath, according to law." This resolution was, of course, equivalent to one for Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion, and the House of Commons was well advised in adjourning the debate.

The *Daily News* observes:—Mr. Bradlaugh has of course put himself in a false position by his direct disobedience to a resolution of the House. He has put into the hands of his opponents a strong weapon. The House might proceed to expel him on the ground of this disobedience. On the other hand it is possible that he may be found to have legally complied with the obligation of the statute by taking the oath by surprise in the face of the whole House. Mr. Labouchere appealed for delay in order that the legal point might be tried; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out with great force, as the Attorney-General had already intimated, that the question raised of insult to the House differed entirely from, and must not be confounded with, Mr. Bradlaugh's legal position. As to the insult, it seems to us that the House has on former occasions received greater provocation from Mr. Bradlaugh than that which he offered on Tuesday. His manner at least was respectful, and there was a novel accent of timidity instead of defiance in his voice. Mr. Gladstone, on behalf of the Government, has promised to consider what course can be taken in the entirely novel circumstances in which the House is placed; but they have a right to ask that Sir Stafford Northcote and his friends, who have led the House into this vexatious difficulty, should themselves indicate some means of possible extrication from it.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.
The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson, was present at the christening, in St. James's Palace on Tuesday, of the eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Rosebery, and stood sponsor to him. His Royal Highness dined with the Earl of Rosebery at Lansdowne House in the evening. The Emperor of Russia visited the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Prince of Wales honoured the Earl of Rosebery by his company at dinner on Tuesday at Lansdowne House, Berkeley-square. There were present to meet the Prince—the Duke of Cleveland, the Marquis of Hartington, M.P., Earl Granville, K.G., Earl Spencer, K.G., the Earl of Kimberley, the Earl of Northbrook, Earl Stanhope, Earl Sydney, Lord Carrington, Lord Elcho, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir W. V. Harcourt, M.P., Colonel the Hon. E. Primrose, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr. Christopher Sykes, M.P., Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. W. H. Russell, the Rev. W. Rogers, Mr. F. Knollys, Mr. Samuel Cockburn, Mr. Calcraft, and the Hon. H. T. Tyndall Wilson (in waiting on the Prince of Wales).

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford entertained the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess of Teck) and the Duke of Teck at dinner at their residence in Eaton-square on Tuesday evening, when there were present to meet the distinguished guests the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn and Lady Georgiana Hamilton, the Earl and Countess of Saffron, the Countess Spencer, the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Cremona, Colonel Hon. F. Bridgeman, Colonel Digby, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baring, and Mr. Charteris. Later they received a small and early party.

The Earl and Countess of Malmesbury have left Heron Court for Bath. His lordship is under treatment for acute gout.

Bishop Giffard, the Archdeacon of London and Chaplain-General of the Forces, is at present unable to fulfil his duties as canon in residence at St. Paul's owing to indisposition. The Archdeacon, since his election in his diocese of Colombo, Ceylon, has been a frequent preacher in London, and taken most of the confirmations for the bishop. This, combined with his duties of chaplain-general, has resulted in a strain upon his constitution.

Lord and Lady Lamington and the Hon. Violet Cochrane Baillie have arrived at 26, Wilton-crescent, from Belvoir Castle.

Lord Northcote confined to his room with an attack of gout. He is under the care of Dr. Erichsen and Dr. Lavies.

Eliza Lady Prescott died on Monday at her residence in Grafton-street. The deceased lady was the youngest daughter of Mr. Henry Willis, and married the late Sir George Willis, Bart. (his second wife) in April, 1830, and was left a widow in April, 1850, and was mother of the present baronet, Sir George Reddisham Prescott.

The Hon. Robert and Mrs. Milnes have arrived at Somerset House, Park-lane.

Sir Charles Wyke, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., returned to Bolton-row on Tuesday from Torquay.

EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

The following document was signed by the Controllers-General, MM. de Blignières and Colvin, at Cairo, on the 6th inst.:—

"When the decree regulating the powers of the Controllers-General was issued, the power belonged to the Khedive, and by delegation to his Ministers. If the Controllers-General were confined to the right of giving advice it was to be presumed that their advice would receive just appreciation. This expectation has been realized, and the financial situation of the country, which was so grave two years ago, is now as prosperous. But since then the power has shifted. It now belongs to the Chamber of Delegates and to various military chiefs whose influence in the Chamber submits to them. This profound alteration in the institutions of the country has been effected gradually. The authority of the Khedive and his Ministers, shaken by the military riot of I. 1880, has been getting daily weaker. Things have come to such a pass that a Chamber of Delegates which under the reign of the ex-Khedive gave many proofs of activity, adhering to the most legitimate and fair financial measures, does not hesitate now to demand rights incompatible with the social condition of the country. It has gone the length of obliging the Khedive to change the Ministry which enjoyed his confidence, and under the pressure of several officers, of forcing him on as Premier the Minister of War. The Khedive's power no longer exists. In these new conditions it little matters whether the intention is affirmed or not of not interfering with the powers of the Controllers. By the very force of things they become inefficient when confronted not with the Khedive and Ministers freely appointed by him, but with a Chamber and an army. The Khedive and the Ministers he appointed could not assume towards public opinion and foreign Governments the responsibility of measures for which the Controllers-General object. In the report they had a right to publish. This was the object of our powers. It has thus far sufficed; but it becomes perfectly illusory confronted with the Ministers of the Chamber and the army, who will only be accessible to the influence of the officers and delegates from whom they derive their powers. In fact, it has come to this already, for the Ministry which has just been formed is about, notwithstanding

standing the formal opposition of the Controllers-General, to give the Chamber the right of voting the Budget. It must, moreover, not be forgotten that Sherif Pasha's Ministry only fell because it would not disregard the opposition offered by the English and French Governments to the claim put forward by the Chamber to vote the Budget. To accept the accomplished facts is, therefore, to accept the most serious outrage which has been committed against the influence of England and France; positively to annihilate the influence of the Controllers, who have no political power, which they derive from their Governments. It would be a profound illusion not herein to see that the proposal of the new committee introduced in the course of late years. The days may already be foreseen when the financial disorders which were remedied by the Commission of Inquiry and Commission of Liquidation will

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 23—24, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Donoughmore has given notice in the House of Lords that he will move for the appointment of a certain number of Peers as the Committee to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act of 1881 and the condition of Ireland. A good deal was said in advance about the number of Liberal Peers who were ready to take part in the Committee, and who thus, it was suggested, were to reduce almost to nothingness the influence of Mr. Gladstone's opposition to the project. The Liberal Peers who are named on the Committee, and who, we suppose, have consented to serve, are not men of a stamp whose defection, if it be a defection, is likely to bring great discouragement to the Liberals of England generally. The Duke of Somerset is on the list, and the Duke of Somerset has usually distinguished himself during recent years by the perverse ingenuity which he displays in trying to thwart and to worry all Liberal Governments. Lord Brabourne also has consented to act on the committee. But Lord Brabourne has steadily sat on the cross benches during his short career in the House of Lords. He has almost invariably opposed whatever Mr. Gladstone's Government has done, or tried to do, in regard to Ireland and its systems, and he has, we believe, of late definitely severed himself from all connection with the Liberal party on the ground that he does not approve of the policy that party is following. Lord Dunraven is an Irish landlord first and a Liberal afterwards, and he is one of those who strongly supported the appointment of the Committee in the first instance. Lord Clarendon is known to the world in general as the son of a distinguished statesman. Not much is known of him beyond this, except the fact that he, too, habitually takes his seat on the cross benches. Lord Penzance is a lawyer, and nothing else. Lord Carrysford is not a tower of strength to the Liberal cause. There does not, therefore, seem to be much evidence in the constitution of the Committee that many who can seriously be called Liberals are likely to agree with the majority of the House of Lords, and to disagree with the opinions of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville. We regret none the less that the House of Lords should not have had discretion enough to withdraw from the position which they have unnecessarily and heedlessly taken up. They might have withdrawn from that position all the more readily because it is not supposed that the principal leaders of the Conservative party were of themselves much inclined to press for the appointment of the Committee. But if the House of Lords will persevere in their course, and if Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to persevere with the motion of which he has given notice, we fear that the result must be all but disastrous to the work of the session. Mr. Gladstone will have to begin on Monday by proposing that the Standing Orders of the House be suspended in order to allow the vote on the proceedings of the House of Lords to be taken before the orders of the day. Sir Stafford Northcote has given notice that he will oppose this motion, and on this a preliminary debate will be raised which may possibly take up the whole of the evening. Then will come the main question, the vote of censure, as we may call it, on the recent action of the House of Lords. No doubt by this time the partisan feeling on the Opposition side of the House of Commons will be pretty well stirred up, and the blood of the country squires will be hot for fight. Many influential Tories already make no secret of their determination to keep up the debate at least a month, that is to say, virtually until Easter. Audacious as this proposition may seem, it is nevertheless perfectly within the power of those who threaten to make good their threat. The Government have only two nights each week at their disposal, and it would not take any very surprising effort of organized obstruction to spread the debate over eight or nine such nights—that is, over four weeks of the Session—or indeed, if necessary, to bring the discussion quite up to the time when the House may be expected to adjourn for the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, the House would naturally resume the debate on the new rules for the regulation of business, and the man would be sanguine indeed who expected that that discussion would be brought to a close much before Whitsuntide. There, then, is the best part of a Session already marked out for doom, and we have said nothing of the interruptions to a continuous debate on either of the subjects already mentioned by the necessary intervention of nights given up to Supply. Would it not be possible to find some way out of this difficulty? Would it not be possible for Mr. Gladstone to show us the way out of it? Why, for example, might not Mr. Gladstone come down to the House of Commons, explain there as well as the occasion required the strong reasons which compelled the Government to object to the appointment of a Committee such as that proposed by the House of Lords, announce that the Government would lend it no assistance, and take on themselves no responsibility for the disturbance which it might create in Ireland, and then also announce that the Government preferred not to throw away any of the short and precious time at their disposal by proposing a resolution in condemnation of what the House of Lords have done?—*Daily News.*

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The *Daily Telegraph* has received the following despatch, dated Feb. 23, from its Vienna correspondent:—

It is not to be expected that General Skobeleff's recall to St. Petersburg will be followed by any severe disciplinary measure. The very mild repudiation of his statements which appeared in the Russian *Official Messenger* prove to what extent the Government are obliged to deal cautiously with him. But quite independently of that circumstance it is believed here that in presence of the existing state of affairs in Russia it would be difficult not to say dangerous, for the Czar to punish so popular an officer as Skobeleff. There is not the slightest doubt that the Czar personally disapproves of the General's conduct but, admitting that he has the will, he has certainly not the power to keep him within bounds. Some of the Czar's more moderate counsellors, and foremost among them M. de Giers, probably condemn not only the incendiary character of Skobeleff's utterances but

also the wild aspirations that prompted them. But what can the Czar and his best advisers do in presence of such a formidable national movement as Panslavism, in its present phase, headed by determined, unscrupulous, and able men like Ignatief, Skobeleff, Akssakoff, and colleagues with almost unlimited pecuniary resources at their disposal?

It is not as if those outside the Panslavist camp were one united body of right-minded men bent on peace and the welfare of their country. There are Nihilists, Socialists, and Revolutionists of different categories, and in the background a host of corrupt and unprincipled officials to whose malpractices the present desperate condition of Russia is chiefly due. The Czar is more to be pitied than blamed, and his many domestic virtues are a guarantee for the conscientious performance of his public duties. But he is paralysed by his surroundings, and his situation at the present moment is in many respects that of a monarch in custody. Ignatief, his chief gaoler, and alas! his evil genius, is to all intents and purposes the present ruler of the Russian Empire, and is only waiting for natural events to vacate the Chancery of State to seize the post occupied for the moment officially at least by Prince Gotschkoff. Therefore, when we speak of political circles in Russia, it must be well understood what is implied thereby. It is only in a certain measure the Czar, and most distinctly not M. de Giers and those members of the Government who share his views. It is Ignatief and a handful of political desperadoes who stand at his elbow, and who, through personal interest and ambition rather than conviction, have embraced the Panslavist faith. They were kept in custody by the late Czar, but the reigning Emperor of Russia had for many years entertained Panslavist tendencies of a pronounced character when he ascended the throne. Consequently the party saw their opportunity when he succeeded his father. The visit to Moscow and Ignatief's appointment were eloquent symptoms of the ascendancy gained by the Panslavists, but there came a moment which I have reasons of my own for connecting with the Dietrich interview, when Alexander III. understood that he could follow his friend further without jeopardising the interests of his Empire. Unfortunately the Panslavists were then too powerful and too numerous for the Emperor to effect an abrupt separation, and unfortunately, too, his forced seclusion has since then placed him more than ever in their hands. If he were gifted with the energy of his grandfather Nicholas, he might put his foot down and summarily emancipate himself from them; but even then the absence of a party or group of men, animated to the same extent as himself with peaceful and patriotic intentions, would prove an obstacle of grave moment. That Skobeleff was but the spokesman of those whose influence in Russia is now predominant admits no doubt whatever. But there is equally good reason to believe that his Paris speeches have annoyed the Czar, and seriously embarrassed the Russian Foreign Office officials.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, and Princess Helen, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Baroness Doebell, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, Sir John and Lady Cowell, General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Sir John Cartairs M'Neill. The Queen walked and drove this morning, attended by the Hon. Horatio Stopford. The Duchess of Connaught went out accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh. The Duke of Connaught and Strathern, and the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, attended by Major A. Egerton, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat, left Windsor at 10.30 a.m. for London. The Prince of Waldeck remains at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, and remained to luncheon. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with Lord Carrington and the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in their mess-room at St. James's Palace on Thursday evening. The French Ambassador left London on Thursday morning for Paris, travelling by the tidal train service from Charing-cross. He returns this week to London to deliver his letters of recall. The Duke of Roxburghe has returned to Floors Castle from Taymouth Castle, where he had made a visit to the Earl of Breadalbane. The Duke of Marlborough and Lady Sarah Churchill are at present visiting the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe at Floors Castle. Lady Fanny Marjoribanks has left Floors for London.

The Dowager Marchioness of Normandy has recovered from her recent illness, and is now enabled to take her accustomed drives and walks in the vicinity of Mulgrave Castle, Whitby. The Earl and Countess of Selkirk have left town for Scotland. The usual daily telegram from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, did not reach Lord Witton's town residence in Grosvenor-square till between six and seven o'clock on Thursday evening. Its tenant was not so favourably as might have been expected from those of Tuesday and Wednesday last. It was as follows:—"Lord Witton passed a quiet night, but his strength is not yet well maintained to-day. His private physician, which he received represents the earl to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. Sir Henry and Lady Alice Das Veux left town on Thursday afternoon for Melton Mowbray. Viscount and Viscountess Grey de Wilton are at Melton. The Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge sent twice during Thursday and again after the latest information respecting his lordship's condition.

Sir Alfred and Lady Slade have removed their town residence from Elvaston-place to 3, Lyall-street, Belgrave-square.

Captain and Mrs. Von Hoffman have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tweed have left Thomas's Hotel for New York.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Frances Long, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Richard P. Long, Root Ashton, and Mrs. Long of Market, and sister of the present member for North Warwick and Mr. De Windt, only surviving son of the late Mr. De Windt of Blundon, Abergavenny, Wales.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in April, between Frederick Robert St. John, H.B.M., Minister in Central America, son of the late Hon. Ferdinand St. John, and Miss Isabella Fitzmaurice, second daughter of the Hon. James Fitzmaurice, captain Royal Navy, of Fernley, Maidenhead.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. Daniel Greville Finch, late of the 24th Foot, died at his lodgings, in Bay-street, St. James's, on Wednesday night after a short and severe illness. The deceased colonel was the second and youngest son of Honenage, 5th Earl of Aylesford, by Lady Augusta Sophia, fourth daughter of George, 2d Earl of Warwick, and was born May, 1845, and was appointed captain in the 68th Foot in December, 1853, became major in 1855, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Foot in 1862. Soon afterwards he was placed on half pay, and retired from the army in 1873.

PARIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

He served with the 68th Light Infantry throughout the Eastern campaign of 1854-55, and was present at the battles of Alma and Inkerman, and the siege and fall of Sebastopol, for which he had received the medal with three clasps, brevet of major, the decoration of the 5th Class of the Order of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal.

THE LEVÉE.

By command of the Queen, a Levée was held on Thursday afternoon at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales on behalf of Her Majesty. Presentations to his Royal Highness at this Court are, by the Queen's pleasure, considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty. The Prince of Wales, attended by his Gentlemen-in-Waiting and escorted by a detachment of Life Guards, arrived at the Palace from Marlborough House about 3 o'clock, and was received by the great officers of State and the Royal Household. The Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont arrived from Buckingham Palace, attended by Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived from Clarence House, attended by Colonel Hon. W. J. Cowell and Captain Clerk. The Duke of Connaught and Steward arrived at the Palace, attended by Captain Sir M. Fitzgerald (Knight of Kerry). The Duke of Cambridge arrived from Gloucester House, attended by Colonel Bateson. The Prince of Leiningen, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levée. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was on duty in the State Saloons, under the command of Lord Carrington, the Captain. Major W. O'Brien Taylor (the Standard-Bearer) and Captain John Glas Sandeman (the Sub-Officer) were present on duty with the Corps. The Royal Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the interior of the Palace, under the command of Lord Monson, the Captain. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur (the Lieutenant) and Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Patterson (the Ensign-in-Waiting) were present on duty with the Corps. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the other members of the Royal Party, entered the Throne Room shortly after 2 o'clock. The Diplomatic Circle was well represented. The presentations were numerous.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

AUGMENTATION OF BENEFICES.

At the instance of the Lord CHANCELLOR the Augmentation of Benefices Act Amendment Bill passed through Committee, and was reported to the House without amendment.

MILITIA OFFICERS.

Lord LAMINGTON called attention to the system of competitive examinations of Militia officers for commissions in the Army. He suggested that in these examinations candidates should get credit for the degrees obtained by them at the Universities.

Lord DONOUGHMORE gave notice that this evening he will move the appointment on his Irish Land Act Committee of the peers whose names he read to the House. Those names will be found in another place.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to six.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 4 o'clock.

Egypt and the POWERS.

In reply to questions from various members, Sir C. Dilke said he was not in a position to make any statement with regard to the rumoured agreement of the European Powers on the Egyptian question. The Government knew nothing of leave of absence being granted to Russian officers to join the insurgents of Herzegovina, nor had they any reason to apprehend a disturbance of peaceful relations between Russia and the Germanic Powers. In regard to the reforms in European Turkey, the advices of Lord Clarendon, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat, left Windsor at 10.30 a.m. for London. The Prince of Waldeck remains at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, and remained to luncheon. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with Lord Carrington and the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in their mess-room at St. James's Palace on Thursday evening.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Baron II. De Wors asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was to be understood that the evidence with regard to the Channel Tunnel taken by the Departmental Committee, promised to the House by the Secretary of State for War, was not to be presented to the House; whether the new Committee now proposed was to sit with closed doors like the previous one; and whether the Houses of Parliament would be excluded from making an open inquiry in the usual manner into the whole subject.

Mr. Gladstone:—The report and the papers connected with this inquiry will of course be presented to the House of Commons. They are collected for the use of Parliament not less than for the use of Government, but submitted necessarily to the usual reserve with regard to any particular point of a confidential character, which it might not be desirable to bring into public view. With regard to the second question, I think it is the uniform practice for preliminary inquiries of this kind to proceed with closed doors, and I have no doubt that that practice will be conformed to. With respect to the third part of the question, undoubtedly there will be no limitation whatever to the power of either House of Parliament to make inquiry; and, moreover, the Government reserve it to themselves to consider what course they may recommend to Parliament to pursue if necessary, to recommend to the Admiralty a measure which would be narrowed by the public opinion of the day.

Sir Alfred and Lady Slade have removed their town residence from Elvaston-place to 3, Lyall-street, Belgrave-square.

Captain and Mrs. Von Hoffman have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tweed have left Thomas's Hotel for New York.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Frances Long, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Richard P. Long, Root Ashton, and Mrs. Long of Market, and sister of the present member for North Warwick and Mr. De Windt, only surviving son of the late Mr. De Windt of Blundon, Abergavenny, Wales.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in April, between Frederick Robert St. John, H.B.M., Minister in Central America, son of the late Hon. Ferdinand St. John, and Miss Isabella Fitzmaurice, second daughter of the Hon. James Fitzmaurice, captain Royal Navy, of Fernley, Maidenhead.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. Daniel Greville Finch, late of the 24th Foot, died at his lodgings, in Bay-street, St. James's, on Wednesday night after a short and severe illness. The deceased colonel was the second and youngest son of Honenage, 5th Earl of Aylesford, by Lady Augusta Sophia, fourth daughter of George, 2d Earl of Warwick, and was born May, 1845, and was appointed captain in the 68th Foot in December, 1853, became major in 1855, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Foot in 1862. Soon afterwards he was placed on half pay, and retired from the army in 1873.

GERMAN EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND.

On the question of going into Committee, the Supply on the Supplementary Estimates.

Lord Pearce moved for a return of all sums charged on the Estimates connected with the attempt to preserve Life and Property in Ireland.

Mr. CHILDRESS, while pointing out the im-

possibility of giving details, explained that the military force of all arms in Ireland at the present moment amounted to 30,000 men, more than its strength at the time when the Government took office, and about 7,000 men which was about 10,000 men more than the average since 1872. At the outside, the extra military expenditure in connection with Ireland was £30,000, which had been saved on other charges, and for which, therefore, no Supplementary Estimate would be required.

The extra naval expenditure would be £20,000 for the year.

Mr. RYLANDS made some discursive com-

mended as a matter of any likelihood that the

export and determined elephant-tamer, William Newman, has any desire to violate the canons either of English humanity or English law. It is by the kind indulgence of Messrs. Barnum, Bailey, and Hutchinson's authorised representatives that Jumbo is still permitted to pass some hours of the day in his old and delightful occupation. He still goes through his morning drill with the ponderous bracelets and the iron martingales; but that Jumbo is losing much of his native vivacity, and the animal's health will not be good cease to chafe or fret the

intelligent beast. Very speedily the alterations in Jumbo's carriage will have been per-

formed; and this prison-van which is

an animal to make an Atlantic voyage stand-

ing, will be again introduced, so that its

designed occupant may become accustomed to its narrow dimensions. The idea is to leave Jumbo to walk through it for his food, until he is betrayed into taking the trap as a harm-

less contrivance.

"W. S." (Junior Carlton Club) observes

that Mr. Scaler's feeble apology for the con-

duct of the Council will only increase the de-

sire of the public to see that the body revoked.

It is impossible to reconcile

Mr. Scaler's statements with those of Mr.

Bartelot, and the

Government that the question of arrears was

not satisfactorily

Galignani's Messenger.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 23—24, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Donoughmore has given notice in the House of Lords that he will move for the appointment of a certain number of Peers as the Committee to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act of 1881 and the condition of Ireland. A good deal was said in advance about the number of Liberal Peers who were ready to take part in the Committee, and who thus, it was suggested, were to reduce almost to nothingness the influence of Mr. Gladstone's opposition to the project. The Liberal Peers who are named on the Committee, and who, we suppose, have consented to serve, are not men of a stamp whose defection, if it be a defection, is likely to bring great discouragement to the Liberals of England generally. The Duke of Somerset is on the list, and the Duke of Somerset has mainly distinguished himself during recent years by the perverse ingenuity which he displays in trying to thwart and to worry all Liberal Governments. Lord Brabourne also has consented to act on the committee. But Lord Brabourne has steadily sat on the cross benches during his short career in the House of Lords. He has almost invariably opposed whatever Mr. Gladstone's Government has done, or tried to do, in regard to Irish land and its systems, and he has, we believe, of late definitely severed himself from all connection with the Liberal party on the ground that he does not approve of the policy that party is following. Lord Dunraven is an Irish landlord first and a Liberal afterwards, and he is one of those who strongly supported the appointment of the Committee in the first instance. Lord Clarendon is known to the world in general as the son of a distinguished statesman. Not much is known of him beyond this, except the fact that he, too, we believe, habitually takes his seat on the cross benches. Lord Penzance is a lawyer, and nothing else. Lord Carstairs is not a tower of strength to the Liberal cause. There does not, therefore, seem to be much evidence in the constitution of the Committee that many who can seriously be called Liberals are likely to agree with the majority of the House of Lords, and to disagree with the opinions of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville. We regret none the less that the House of Lords should not have had discretion enough to withdraw from the position which they have unnecessarily and heedlessly taken up. They might have withdrawn from that position all the more readily because it is not supposed that the principal leaders of the Conservative party were of themselves much inclined to press for the appointment of the Committee. But if the House of Lords will persevere in their course, and if Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to persevere with the motion of which he has given notice, we fear that the resolution must be all but disastrous to the work of the session. Mr. Gladstone will have to begin on Monday by proposing that the Standing Orders of the House be suspended in order to allow the vote on the proceedings of the House of Lords to be taken before the orders of the day. Sir Stafford Northcote has given notice that he will oppose this motion, and on this a preliminary debate will be raised which may possibly take up the whole of the evening. Then will come the main question, the vote of censure, as we may call it, on the recent action of the House of Lords. No doubt by this time the partisan feeling on the Opposition side of the House of Commons will be pretty well stirred up, and the blood of the country squires will be hot for fight. Many influential Tories already make no secret of their determination to keep up the debate at least a month, that is to say, virtually until Easter. Audacious as this proposition may seem, it is nevertheless perfectly within the power of those who threaten to make good their threat. The Government have only two nights each week at their disposal, and it would not take any very surprising effort of organized obstruction to spread the debate over eight or nine such nights—that is, over four weeks of the Session—or indeed, if necessary, to bring the discussion quite up to the time when the House may be expected to adjourn for the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, the House would naturally resume the debate on the new rules for the regulation of business, and the man would be sanguine indeed who expected that that discussion would be brought to a close much before Whitsuntide. There, then, is the best part of a Session already marked out for doom, and we have said nothing of the interruptions to a continuous debate on either of the subjects already mentioned by the necessary intervention of nights given up to Supply. Would it not be possible to find some way out of this difficulty? Would it not be possible for Mr. Gladstone to show us the way out of it? Why, for example, might not Mr. Gladstone come down to the House of Commons, explain there as fully as the occasion required the strong reasons which compelled the Government to object to the appointment of a Committee such as that proposed by the House of Lords, announce that the Government would lend it no assistance, and take on themselves what the House of Lords have done?—*Daily News.*

also the wild aspirations that prompted them. But what can the Czar and his best advisers do in presence of such a formidable national movement as Panslavism, in its present phase, headed by determined, unscrupulous, and able men like Ignatieff, Skobeleff, Akasoff, and colleagues with almost unlimited pecuniary resources at their disposal?

It is not as if the Panslavist camp had an united body of right-minded, honest, peace and welfare of their country. That represents but a small minority of the Russian people. Besides the Panslavists there are Nihilists, Socialists, and Revolutionaries of different categories, and in the background a host of corrupt and unprincipled officials to whose malpractices the present desperate condition of Russia is chiefly due. The Czar is more to be pitied than blamed, and his many domestic virtues are a guarantee for the conscientious performance of his public duties. But he is paralysed by his surroundings, and his situation at the present moment is in many respects that of a captured Emperor. Ignatieff, to all intents and purposes the present ruler of the Russian Empire, and is only waiting for natural events to vacate the Chancellery to seize the post occupied for the moment held officially, at least, by Prince Gortschakoff. Therefore, when speaking of official circles in Russia, it must be well understood what is implied thereby. It is only in a certain measure the Czar, and most distinctly not M. de Giers and those members of the Government who share his views. It is Ignatieff and a handful of political desperadoes who stand at his elbow, and who, through personal interest and ambition rather than conviction, have embraced the Panslavist faith. They were kept in check by the Czar, but the reigning Emperor of Russia had for many years entertained Panslavist ideas of a pronounced character when he ascended the throne. Consequently the party saw their opportunity when he succeeded his father. The visit to Moscow and Ignatieff's appointment were eloquent symptoms of the ascendancy gained by the Panslavists, but there came a moment which I have reasons of my own for connecting with the Danzig interview, when Alexander III. understood that he could follow his friends no further without imperilling the interests of his Empire. Unfortunately the Panslavists were then too powerful and too numerous for the Emperor to effect an abrupt separation, and unfortunately, too, his forced seclusion has since then placed him more than ever in their hands. If he were gifted with the qualities of his grandfather Nicholas, he might put his hand and heartily emancipate himself from them; but even then the absence of a party or group of men, animated to the same extent as himself with peaceful and patriotic intentions, would prove an obstacle of grave moment. That Skobeleff was but the spokesman of those whose influence in Russia is now predominant admits no doubt whatever. But there is equally good reason to believe that his Paris speech has annoyed the Czar, and seriously embarrassed the Russian Foreign Office officials.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's party included Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, and Princess Helen, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Baroness Doebeck, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, Sir John and Lady Cowell, General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Sir John Cartairs M'Neill. The Queen walked and drove this morning, attended by the Hon. Horatio Stopford. The Duchess of Connaught went out accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, and the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, attended by Major A. Egerton, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat, left Windsor at 10.30 a.m. for London. The Duke of Waldeck remains at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, and remained to luncheon. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Typhcott-Wilson, dined with Lord Carrington and the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in their mess-room at St. James's Palace on Thursday evening.

The French Ambassador left London on Thursday morning for Paris, travelling by the midland train service from Charing-cross. He returns this week to London to deliver his letters of recall.

The Duke of Roxburgh has returned to Floors Castle from Taymouth Castle, where he had been on a visit to the Earl of Breadalbane. The Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Sarah Churchill are at present visiting the Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh at Floors Castle. Lady Fanny Marjoribanks has left Floors for London.

The Dowager Marchioness of Normandy has recovered from her recent illness, and is now enabled to take her accustomed drives and walks in the vicinity of Mulgrave Castle, Whitby.

The Earl and Countess of Selkirk have left town for Scotland.

The usual daily telegram from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, did not reach Lord Wilton's town residence in Grosvenor-square till between six and seven o'clock on Thursday evening. Its tenor was not so favourable as might have been expected from those of Tuesday and Wednesday last. It was as follows:—"Lord Wilton passed a quiet night, but his strength is not so well maintained to-day." A private telegram subsequently received from the east to be in a very critical condition. Sir Henry and Lady Alice Das Vaux left town on Thursday afternoon for Melton Mowbray. Viscountess Grey de Wilton are at Melton.

The Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge sent twice during Thursday and inquiry after the latest information respecting his lordship's condition.

Sir Alfred and Lady Slade have removed their town residence from Elvaston-place to Lyall-street, Belgrave-square.

Captain and Mrs. Howard have arrived at Thomas's Hotel from Dublin.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Hoffman have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tweed have left Thomas's Hotel for New York.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Frances Long, fourth daughter of Mr. Richard P. Long, Rod Ashton, and Mrs. Long, of Mary, and sister of the present member for North Wiltshire, and Mr. De Windt, captain Royal Navy, of Fernley, Maidenhead.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. Daniel Greville Finch, late of the 24th Foot, died at his lodgings, in Bury-street, St. James's, on Wednesday night after a short and severe illness. The deceased colonel was the second and youngest son of Heneage, 5th Earl of Aylesford, by Lady Augusta Sophia, fourth daughter of George, 2d Earl of Warwick, and was born 26th April, 1812. He entered the army in May, 1815, and was appointed captain in the 60th Foot, December, 1853, became major in 1855, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Foot in 1862. Soon afterwards he was placed on half pay, and retired from the army in 1873.

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PARIS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1882.

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By command of the Queen, a Levée was held on Thursday afternoon at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales before his Highness the Prince of Wales, attended by his Gentlemen-in-Waiting and escort at the Palace from Marlborough House about 2 o'clock, and was received by the great officers of State and the Royal Household. The Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont arrived from Buckingham Palace, attended by Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived from Clarence House, attended by Colonel Hon. W. J. Cowell, and Captain Clark. The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn arrived at the Palace, attended by Captain Sir M. FitzGerald (Knight of Kerry). The Duke of Cambridge arrived from Gloucester House, attended by Colonel Bateson. The Prince of Leiningen, Prince Edward of Saxo-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levée. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was on duty in the State Saloons, under the command of Lord Carrington, the Captain, Major W. O'Bryan Taylor (the Standard-Bearer) and Captain John Glas Sandeman (the Sub-Officer) were present on duty with the Corps. The Royal Body Guard of the Queen and the Duke of Cambridge were present on the platform of the Palace, under the command of Lord Monson, the Captain, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Need (the Lieutenant) and Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Patterson (the Ensign-in-Waiting) were present on duty with the Corps. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the other members of the Royal Family, entered the Throne Room shortly after 2 o'clock. The Diplomatic Circle was well represented. The presentations were numerous.

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EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

In reply to questions from various members, Sir C. Dilke said he was not in a position to make any statement with regard to the rumoured agreement of the European Powers on the Egyptian question. The Government knew nothing of leave of absence being granted to Russian officers to join the insurgents in the Herzegovina, nor had they any reason to apprehend a disturbance of peaceful relations between Russia and the Germanic Powers. In regard to the reforms in European Turkey, on the advice of Lord Dufferin, the Armenian question was being pressed in the first instance. Later on in the evening, Sir C. Dilke said he had just received a communication from the Foreign Office concerning the treaty negotiations, the terms of which he could not communicate, but they afforded a prospect of as satisfactory a settlement as was possible under the circumstances.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Baron II. De Worms asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was to be understood that the evidence with regard to the Channel Tunnel taken by the Departmental Committee, promised to the House, was not to be presented to the House; whether the new Committee now proposed was to sit with closed doors like the previous one; and whether the Houses of Parliament would be excluded from making an open inquiry in the usual manner into the affair.

Mr. Gossamer: The report and the papers connected with this inquiry will of course be presented to the House of Commons. They are collected for the use of Parliament not less for the use of Government, but subject necessarily to the usual reserve with regard to any particular point of a confidential character, which it might not be desirable to bring into public view.

With regard to the second question, I think it is the uniform practice for preliminary inquiries of this kind to proceed with closed doors, and I have no doubt that that practice will be conformed to.

With respect to the third part of the question, undoubtedly there will be no limitation whatever to the power of either House of Parliament to make inquiry; and, moreover, the Government reserve it to themselves to consider what course they may recommend Parliament to pursue—if necessary, to recommend a Parliamentary inquiry which would in no way be narrowed by the purely scientific inquiry that is now being made.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 25—26, 1882.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

The Saturday Review thinks the decision of the Lords to appoint a committee to inquire into the working of the Land Act and its effect on the condition of Ireland may perhaps be regretted; but it was a mistake made honestly and with good intentions, and has been met by a challenge on the part of the Government which is quite unnecessary, which must be ineffectual, and which will lead to a lamentable waste of the time which the Government professes to be anxious to economise. They did not wish to drive the Government from office, or to embarrass it in its grave contest with anarchy, but merely to show that, as private individuals, they were suffering unjust pecuniary losses. Unfortunately they so shaped their motion that, if it was literally carried out, the Committee must very gravely embarrass the Government. The Lords have not meant to censure the Government, and it is useless for Mr. Gladstone to parade the majority which on such a subject he can notoriously command. Lord Granville might have put things right without any appeal being made to the Commons. If he had stated, after both parties had had a day or two to deliberate, that he understood the appointment of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government, and had gone on to point out the means of unfair attack on the Government to which the Committee, if conducted in a contentious spirit, might open the door, he would unquestionably have received from the Conservative leaders an assurance that the institution of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government; that they were fully alive to the necessity of rigidly controlling the action of the Committee; and that they would be no parties to an unfair attack on those whose difficulties in a time of great delay they appreciated. The result, which is the most that can be attained after a six nights' debate in the Commons, would have been arrived at in a few minutes. The Government would have vindicated itself, and the Committee of the Lords would have gone on, but gone on in a very measured and moderate way.

The Times remarks that it must be admitted that in this matter the greatest difficulties have been thrown in the way of the return of the Lords to a more sensible course. The Prime Minister has not set the example of perfectly subordinating personal or party considerations to the paramount claims of the public interest. But if Mr. Gladstone made retreat in the first instance harder than it need have been, the House of Lords has now, by its own action, added yet further to the difficulty. To a false step made in ignorance it has added another, made with full knowledge of the direction in which it is moving. In theory, of course, what it has done is irreversible; but in practice there are means of escape from a false position. It behoves the House of Lords in such a case as this to rise far above technical argument concerning its independence of the House of Commons, and to set aside as altogether unworthy of consideration the alleged loss of prestige upon which some of its advisers dwell.

The Standard says:—The speech of the Foreign Secretary, though couched in a studiously conciliatory strain, offered nothing like a real and tangible concession. The peers cannot be expected ignorantly and gratuitously to surrender. With a very small amount of tact and conciliation the whole controversy might have been avoided. The enemies of the House of Lords and of the Conservatives will strenuously labour to represent the appointment of the Committee as a party move. It will be for the members of the Committee to demonstrate by their action how groundless is the charge. The House of Lords has taken upon itself a great duty: the responsibility which it entails is proportionate.

The Daily Telegraph says:—Lord Granville put on Mr. Gladstone's action a construction intended to take off the rough edge. He insisted that it was not a vote of censure on the House of Lords, but a vote designed to support the Land Commissioners. Regarded from that standpoint it may be defended, yet no such explanation covers the whole ground.

The Daily News says:—The Conservative members of the House of Lords have, we fear, rendered all but impossible the compromise which we recommended yesterday, and which, as we have seen, had occasion to observe, commanded itself very strongly to Liberals of all sections. We do not remember to have heard the war trumpet blown with a more determined blast, and with less excuse for its summons. We have only to repeat that unless some unexpected concession be made, the present Session of Parliament is practically doomed to barrenness.

The Morning Post asks:—Why did not Lord Granville, at the outset, specify the "grave objections" to the appointment of the Committee entertained by the Ministers? The true explanation of his reticence is probably this—that Mr. Gladstone saw in the situation an opportunity of posing as the leader of "popular opinion" against the "privileged classes." In default of any better "cry," the Premier may yet be driven to take over from Mr. Bradlaugh the "abolition of the House of

Lords;" and the present affords a good opportunity for testing how far such a movement would be acceptable to the country.

The Morning Advertiser says the attitude of the House of Lords is in every respect worthy of their traditions and their place. They have put their foot down in this matter, and we hope they will not budge an inch in retreat. They are in the right.

THE CRISIS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

The Spectator is not disposed to underrate the seriousness of the crisis in Eastern Europe, but the true reasons for alarm are frequently overlooked. The extreme desire of many Englishmen, and of the Jews who control so much of the Continental press and telegraph agencies, to cast aspersions on the Government of Russia, creates a wide misapprehension of the facts. There is danger in the air, but it does not arise from the action of any Government, unless it be that of Austria, and even that is more than doubtful. It is as nearly certain as any fact dependent on individual wills, can be, that the three "Imperial Powers" earnestly desire peace for the present. The Czar dreads the very notion of a great war, in which a defeat would shake his Throne to pieces, and amid which the restoration of financial safety, upon which he is intent, must necessarily be abandoned. The German Chancellor, again, though probably willing, out of a permanent dread of a Franco-Russian coalition, to accept war, is obviously not hurrying one, directs his agents to minimise the importance of General Skobeleff's speeches, and is well aware of the nearly invincible antipathy which his master—now a man of vast age, and full to repletion of successes—regards the possibility of another war during his own lifetime. Finally, the Austrian Government, besides its habitual dread of great disturbances, deters the notion of a war in which the feelings of its own subjects would be divided, which would cleave a deep chasm between itself and the Slavs of the Balkans, and amidst which the Dalmatians, the Bosnians, and the Herzegovinians might assert successfully their own independence. The Governments will maintain peace, if they can, at present, and the real danger arises from movements within Russia itself, which may prove powerful enough to force the hand of the Czar. Of the precise depth, and still more of the precise degree of impetus in these movements, no Englishman can know much, and it is absurd to be dogmatic about them; but the evidence on the surface is not reassuring. As to the merits of the question nominally at issue, the real question being the comparative strength of the two races, most Englishmen will, we think, be agreed. Bosnia and Herzegovina were handed over to Austria by a European award, as fully as the Ionian Islands were handed over to Great Britain; and though the Bosnians have full right of insurrection, Russia has no right to repudiate her consent. But Russia has a full right, if she thinks it worth while, to resist any aggression on either Servia or Montenegro; and the Austrian allegation that those States are helping rebels is either meaningless or a declaration of war. They have a right to help them, and to find allies, if they can, to protect them from the consequences. The inherent right of the Balkan States, like all other States, is self-government, and neither Servia nor Montenegro waived her independence as regards Bosnia under the Treaty of Berlin.

The Economist believes that the position of Austria in the great struggle between the Slav and the German which so many acute observers believe to be approaching is not so bad as that of Russia, but it is not simple, and it is not satisfactory. The best point in it is that there is a head to the State. The Emperor Francis Joseph has to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina against the will of the Bosnian people, who are annoyed with his agents, and excited with the chance of union with Servia, their natural ally, and Dalmatia, their natural sea-board; and against the will of Russia, which desires influence among all Slavs, to keep them by force, and yet, if possible, without a war. A war would be for him a contest for existence, and he shrinks from it with the dread which all ancient and legitimate princes regard enterprises involving such stakes and a necessity for revolutionary energy. If he were victorious, it would be by the aid of Germany, and he would have to enter into new and difficult combinations, in which all the work of pacifying savage territories would fall to his share; while if he were defeated, his Empire might break up, and in the best event his sway over his Slav subjects would be almost gone. He must, therefore, avoid war, and yet in order to keep the provinces war must be risked. The Bosnians must be conquered; and this work excites and irritates the Russians, who hear all that occurs within the Montenegrins, without actually entering either of the independent States. It has, therefore, treated the insurrection—which is not by itself very formidable—as if it were a war, has drawn together from 70,000 to 80,000 troops, has mobilised the fleet as well as the army, and has issued strict orders to its generals to wait till all is ready and the weather is finer. If when the movement begins a crushing blow can be struck all may be well, and the agitation will be at an end; but if not, if the troops are defeated, or if a long guerrilla war breaks out in the mountains, and the repression, as usually happens in such cases, becomes savage, the position will be most serious.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S EXPULSION.

When Mr. Bradlaugh some time ago announced that he had found a *catholic* or universal remedy for all his disabilities, no one, the Saturday Review points out, was clever enough to make out what he meant. Indeed, it could hardly have occurred to any one that even Mr. Bradlaugh's ingenuity, assisted by Mr. Bradlaugh's contempt for what other people hold sacred, would devise the scandalous farce of Tuesday:

Some very clever people affect to see in this proceeding something more than mere childish indecency, while in the repeated insult offered to the House on Wednesday they see a second move in a clever game. Mr. Bradlaugh, according to them, aspired

after a third mandate from the electors of Northampton, and thought this the best way to get it. It is really hardly necessary to inquire into the workings of Mr. Bradlaugh's mind. The House of Commons has to do, not with his intentions, but with his proceedings—a fact which is constantly forgotten by his apologists. If he had not put himself on record as a person on whom the oath was not binding, the transactions of the last two years would not have taken place. If he had not twice in two days forced his way into the attention of the House—first by a piece of insolent mannerism, and then by a piece of insolent insubordination—he might have continued to lurk about the precincts of the House, and address gatherings of Secularists and Republicans in the parlours of the capital, till a dissolution returned him to his appropriate obscurity. There is another person concerned, however, whose conduct is much more interesting and much more worthy of comment than Mr. Bradlaugh's. Admirers of the Prime Minister assert that "he acted through these trying scenes with the courage, the constancy, and dignity which have marked him throughout dealing with this question from first to last." There is no doubt of it, and it would be impossible to find a more exactly appropriate phrase. The consistency which pursues an argument up to a certain point and then stops short at the conclusion, the dignity which sulks for years in revenge for the indolency of the Commons of England, the courage which never dares meet the opposition fairly and squarely, but sulks behind courts of law, previous questions, allegations as to the time of Government being so much taken up that they can never deal with the matter, and so forth, have marked him throughout dealing with this question from first to last."

Mr. HAROURT asked whether the contemplated arrangement was to be in connexion with the legislation of the Session, which the Times had spoken of as "fugitive and evanescent as a morning dream."

Mr. GLADSTONE replied that legislation would, of course, be necessary, but he would take care that it was detached from difficult or contentious legislation, which Mr. Sclater-Booth interpreted to mean that it would not be part of the County Government Bill, and ultimately Mr. Harcourt, accepting the offer in perfect good faith, said he would not go on with his motion. In answer to questions from Mr. Healy and Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Gladstone said that, as the circumstances were different, it would not be possible to deal with the Irish roads in the same manner.

The House then went into Committee of Supply and was engaged to a very late hour on the Supplementary Civil Service Estimates. The Irish Constabulary Vote afforded another opportunity to the Irish members to attack Mr. Forster's administration of the Coercion Act and the conduct of the police on various occasions. Mr. Forster, in supporting the vote, took occasion to express his high sense of the tact, courage, and self-control of the police. In the end, the vote was agreed to by 126 votes against 11.

On the vote of £1,300 for salaries and expenses in connection with the Office of Public Works (Ireland), Mr. Sexton said the Irish members would give this vote all the opposition in their power. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the conditions under which loans were granted to small farmers were such as to exclude them from all benefit under the clause. Lord CAVENDISH expressed his opinion that the objections put forward to the appointment of the committee were serious, and that an objection which appeared to him more serious was that the Committee would be of the "landlord interest" sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity on the Irish Land Commissioners. The announcements on the subject made this week both Houses rendered the situation still more grave. As to the proposed Committee, every member of it, with one doubtful exception, was an avowed opponent of the Irish policy of her Majesty's Government. He thought that the report of such a Committee only increased the bitter feeling already existing in Ireland with the Irish Land Act. He recommended the adjournment of the debate on the motion, with the view of postponing the appointment of the Committee or limiting the inquiry, as he understood that the Government would not object to inquiry at a future time.

Lord DONOUGHMORE felt it impossible to adopt the course recommended by Lord Lansdowne. In the debate of Friday night the Government did not, as he understood them, offer any such compromise as that which his noble friend had referred to. He did not think that any danger would arise from the Committee; and, especially after the notice of motion given by Mr. Gladstone in the other House, he felt bound to intervene.

Lord DAWSON, while fully supporting the right of the House to watch and supervise, thought that considerations of time and opportunity made it advisable that their lordships should not do anything to weaken the hands of the Government in Ireland, or to subvert the administration of the law in that country.

It would be childish to perspire with the Committee because of Mr. Gladstone's motion if on other grounds it ought to be given up.

Lord SALISBURY contended that if their lordships recognised the right of the House of Commons to censure their proceedings, such a recognition would seriously affect the action of their lordships' House in the future.

The Government on Friday last declined all compromise and gave no promise of a future inquiry. The objects of the Committee had been misrepresented. It would neither help the Commissioners nor seek to repeat the Land Act. Any change in the direction of redressing the wrongs of the landlords rather than that of diminishing anything which the tenants had acquired by that Act. He pointed out that there were various points in connexion with the proper working of the Act which could at once be inquired into with great advantage. He asked, as the House of Commons appointed committees on labour questions, why should a committee of the House of Lords be thought to be incapable of sitting on a land question?

Lord GRANVILLE amid cries of "Oh!" denied that Mr. Gladstone's resolution would be a vote of censure on the House of Lords. It was not intended to be such. It was intended to support the authority of those who were administering a law which their lordships' House passed last Session. He maintained that the Committee would be regarded as an interested body. He denied that the Government objected to inquiry at the proper time. They had given their entire liberty in determining the time and opportunity; but they did not say that hereafter an inquiry into some points of the Land Act might not be very desirable.

The Lord CHANCELLOR having put the question on the appointment of the Select Committee, declared that the Contents had it.

The Select Committee was then nominated.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes past 7 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE LORDS AND THE LAND ACT.

On the motion for naming the Select Committee on the Irish Land Act.

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Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes past 7 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 4 o'clock.

THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

In the House of Commons.

Sir C. DILKE, in answer to questions addressed to him by several members in reference to the commercial negotiations with France, said the accounts in the papers were substantially correct, except that if the Bill now before the Chamber became law, the existing treaty would be prolonged until May 15. The negotiations for a tariff treaty had come to an end, and the Bill, which might be expected to pass to-day, would give this country the treatment of the most favoured nation. It was an entirely voluntary act on the part of France, and was unaccompanied by any engagement on the part of this country. It was impossible to state offhand the duties under which British goods would come in, as they are so frequently with visitors, it is difficult to contemplate the destruction and havoc it might have caused. If at any time it broke out from its den in an excited state, the massive iron railings that enclose its paddock would not suffice to restrain it for a single minute; it would rush through them as a horse would through a poultry fence. In America, with Barnum's travelling circus, much more scope can be given to them as they are so frequently with visitors, it is quickly being destroyed by the efforts of the animal during his fits of irritability. The constant recurrence of attacks of this nature renders it necessary in almost every instance to destroy male elephants in confinement before they have attained the age of twenty-five years, which may, perhaps, be reached as that of their full growth. As one example, let me quote the case of Chuny, the well-known elephant of Exeter Change, which some fifty years old since stood on the site of the Royal Office and the Gaiety Theatre. Chuny was killed by his keeper and proceeded to tear down in his rage a number of vital parts, fired an incredible number of bullets into his head and body before falling. A second male elephant that had to be destroyed was one in Atkins's travelling menagerie, then at Liverpool; he had killed two keepers, and was smashing everything around him when he was shot. A third

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 26—27, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Salisbury's emphatic declaration that Mr. Gladstone's motion must be regarded as a direct attack upon the constitutional position of the House of Lords, would of itself put almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of any satisfactory arrangement. On the one hand, it stirs up the bitterest feeling of party and of class among Lord Salisbury's own followers; on the other, it would make concession coming from the Ministerial side seem like an acknowledgment that such an attack had been intended and had to be abandoned. Friday was the first day when Lord Salisbury had an opportunity of showing what his leadership of the Conservative party was likely to be on any really important occasion: and he showed only too clearly how unfitted he is by temper and by turn of mind for such a place. Shakespeare has a Salisbury who is addressed as "Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son." We have a Salisbury now whom it would be hardly beyond the bounds of probability or of fairness to call the mad misleader of an occasionally brain-sick party. On Friday the House of Lords might, without the slightest derogation even to their fancied dignity, have withdrawn from the position into which they had been thrust so suddenly a few evenings before. The Prime Minister and the Government had interposed with the whole force of their responsibility and authority, and a moment's cool consideration would have told the Peers that the country would expect them to give way. If they still believed in the necessity for the appointment of a Committee of landlords to inquire into the working of a Land Act, that has only just begun to be worked, they could have relieved their consciences and their souls by declaring that on the Government, and not on the House of Lords, would rest the blame of having prevented such a committee from being appointed. They could have withdrawn from the controversy with the expression of that famous hope that things might be none the worse that day twelve-month, which if events turned out one way would be a pious wish fulfilled, and if the other way a prophecy; but they have chosen their ground under Lord Salisbury's guidance, and we suppose they mean to hold it. They cannot be said to have been in any doubt as to the probable consequences of their unfortunate determination. Not only had they the Prime Minister's announcement in their minds when they decided on persevering, but it was that very announcement which, according to Lord Salisbury, induced them to persevere. Not only did they persist in spite of the Prime Minister's declaration that the course they threatened would be disastrous to the cause of order and good government in Ireland, but they made that very declaration another reason for their persistence. The English people would not have seen in the investigations of any amateur Committee of the House of Lords any serious menace to the stability of the Free Trade policy. But the Irish tenant-farmers will undoubtedly see in the appointment of a Committee of land-owning Peers to inquire into the working of the Land Act a very serious menace to the stability and the effective operation of that Act. Is it possible to suppose that such a step as the appointment of such a Committee will not drive many a tenant-farmer still inclined to loyalty and the cause of order to declare in his despair that, after all, Mr. Parnell was right, that the House of Lords are too strong for Mr. Gladstone's best intentions, and that the Land League is the only body to which the Irish occupier can look for protection? We cannot therefore wonder that Mr. Gladstone should have been unwilling to allow the Lord's Committee to be appointed without obtaining from the House of Commons an emphatic declaration which shall relieve him and the Government from all share in the responsibility for so ill-omened a piece of work. If the Prime Minister could have seen his way to arrive at the same result by a declaration on the part of the Government without the necessity for a formal resolution and a debate in the House of Commons, we should have been glad; and such a course would have been possible, and might have been adopted, but for the unhappy precipitancy of the House of Lords on Friday. If such arrangement, of which even now we are unwilling to renounce all hope, be now impossible the blame must rest altogether on the House of Lords. Unfortunately the consequences will not have to be borne by them. A wasted Session will not trouble the Peers in particular. The inevitable postponement of most important legislation will not affect them more than it affects other people; not nearly so much as it will affect many other people. We may as well look the whole business straight in the face and recognise its full menace. If the Opposition, including the Irish party, with whom they are in more or less cordial alliance, should use their powers of debate with anything like the energy and perseverance that are expected of them, the real business of the Session may be regarded as already doomed to postponement. The Conservatives have in any case no particular wish to help the Government in useful legislation—the Irish party are always ready to obstruct. Lord Salisbury has given an incitement to both bands which they will not be slow to act upon. They can, if they choose, prolong the debate until the eve of the Easter recess. Many of the Tory party are loud in their proclamation that they can do this, and that they will do it. If the House meets after Easter with the discussion of the new Rules for its business still before it, then all we can say is that it will be impossible for the Government to pass one single measure this Session of all those which were announced in the Speech from the Throne. What wonder if people should begin to ask themselves whether there is really benefit enough to be had from the existence of a House of Peers to compensate for the injuries which its capricious and thoughtless action may sometimes inflict?—*Daily News*.

RUOMERS OF A DISSOLUTION.

The *Daily Telegraph* of yesterday says:—In political circles last night a belief was prevalent that, owing to the action adopted by the House of Lords on Friday last in appointing a committee of inquiry into the operation of the Land Act, and the consequent difficulty of continuing the government of Mr. Gladstone had determined to place his resignation in the hands of her Majesty. Various conjectures are rife as to the immediate result of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, but in well-informed quarters it is believed that any attempt to form a new Liberal Ministry under Lord Hartington would fail, owing to the defection of the Radical section. The Cabinet, it is thought more probable that the crisis will be left to be settled by an appeal to the country, and that with this view Parliament will be dissolved at an early date.

ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

M. Tirard's Bill regulating the commercial relations between France and England has been well received thus far. The Committee to which it was referred on Thursday, after it had been promulgated in the Chamber of Deputies, has presented a favourable report upon it, and, after some discussion and after an authoritative explanation of its terms, it has been passed by the Chamber without a division. No time is to be lost in making further progress with it. M. Tirard does not look upon it as a final settlement of the question with which it deals. He has not given up all hope that the treaty negotiations may yet be renewed, and may be brought to a favourable conclusion. His Bill has been constructed to meet the emergency of the moment, to prevent, that is to say, the application of the general tariff to English goods on and after the 1st of March. The most favoured nation treatment which it affords to England carries with it a prolongation of the existing treaty until May 15. This was assumed by M. Rouvier, and, after some doubt had been expressed by M. Peyrat whether M. Rouvier's interpretation was correct, it was expressly confirmed by M. Tirard. The conventions, it appears, which have already been renewed with other nations, stipulate, in their case, for the maintenance until May 15 of the Anglo-French tariff of 1860. England, therefore, if she is to be as well treated as any other nation, will so long survive the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheapest for what others can manufacture or supply cheapest; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt in some way or another to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

apply such an argument to such a point there must be most lamentable confusion of ideas. We seek a commercial treaty with a country in order that the inhabitants of that country may purchase of us goods at less than exorbitant rates, and that we may not be excluded altogether by prohibitive rates. Such is the function of a commercial treaty. But we seek a most-favoured-nation clause for altogether other reasons. By its means we endeavour to appear in that foreign market on equal terms with other foreign purveyors. The two objects are perfectly distinct and different. We are wanting to sell our goods in a market town. On the one hand we say to the gate-keeper, Do not you charge so high an entrance-fee that we shall be forced to put so high a price on our goods that purchasers in the market will be less willing or even unable to buy. On the other hand we say, Do not charge us more than you charge other purveyors from the outside. The two matters remain totally distinct not only in degree but in kind, and to confound together two objects so perfectly and fundamentally different is to create misconceptions and mistakes of which an intelligent people should be heartily ashamed. We wish to sell our goods in France; and we do not wish to be handicapped by paying larger entrance fees than are paid by other foreign purveyors. We wish to compete in supplying France with what she buys from abroad; but we wish most certainly to compete on equal terms with third nations. This is all to the advantage of France. For this purpose, but for this alone, we require a "most-favoured-nation" treaty. And this covers a most important division of our trade relations, and one the interests of which we can ill afford to ignore. As for the tariff under which we shall enter France in common with other foreigners that is a matter which affects France far more than it affects us. The "better terms" we hear so much about are better for us only in a minor degree, but in a very major degree for France. A very serious state of affairs will be surely induced in France if she finds herself stranded without facilities of commercial intercourse with her neighbours. For instance, her wine-growing industry is already in a condition of absolute shrinkage, and some of the older wine-growing districts have latterly survived in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall also suffer it and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France. We retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheapest for what others can manufacture or supply cheapest; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt in some way or another to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE TIGHT-LACING MANIA.

The clever and suggestive lecture on the "Dress of the Period," delivered on Saturday by Mr. Frederick Treves to an audience which crowded the Kensington Town Hall to overflowing, serves as an illustration, were any needed, of the deep and perennial interest attaching to the subject of dress:—How far our present free condition is from the imaginary state of perfect raiment was abundantly illustrated by the diagrams, casts, and models exhibited by Mr. Treves in support of his views. Of course every one admits theoretically that tight lacing is injurious, just as every woman denies practically that she laces tight. Why in perfect good faith. They have a sort of impression that a corset is a natural need, at least in a civilised life, like a shoe to protect the foot or something on the head to cover it from rain and sun. Because they have been inured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These probably are amongst the least culpable in respect of tight lacing, and yet they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. But that tight lacing exists at present to an extent nothing short of frightful may be proved beyond all doubt to any one who chooses to see. Girls may be seen by hundreds walking in the streets and parks whose waists excite horror and alarm in the beholder. The size of a normal healthy woman's waist is about twenty-eight inches in circumference, and its shape is oval. The waist of the costume of period is twenty-one, and we have known extreme cases of eighteen and sixteen inches, and the shape is perfectly round. Of course this compression occasions, amongst greater or less wooden hardness, something which should have imagined to the tentative arms of a timid admirer. Even the score of attractiveness, these waspish waists are a mistake. The plates in fashion-books, which are, by the way, responsible for a great deal of mischief, exhibit forms which are shocking to every feeling of beauty or sense, but which happily are, as Mr. Treves assured his audience, in showing them a figure enlarged from a magazine of modes, incompatible with life. No woman could look like that and live. Again, the fashionable boot and shoe, with cuts of which the makers adorn their advertisements, are nothing but a parody on the Chinese deformity, which we regard with horror of custom and pity for the victim. The shape of the natural foot and the arrangement of the bones are totally disregarded, and the result, when placed side by side with the Chinese deformed and hideous member, differs in little from it.

A MOST-FAVoured-NATION TREATY.

Confusion of ideas and consequent misapprehension appear with strange persistency and injurious iteration in the public conceptions of what is termed for convenience a most-favoured-nation treaty. It is now probable that a treaty of this kind will regulate our relations with France, and the questions that put to Sir Charles Dilke on Friday night show a distraction of mind on the subject that would be truly astonishing in a less distract Assembly. The Paris correspondent of the *Times* can himself descend to the assertion that "it is difficult to see how England, after refusing terms better than a most-favoured-nation clause can now accept the latter." To be able to

Amateur talking on these matters is not of much use. The offender acquiesces gently in the censure and continues to offend. But when men of science take the matter up, and demonstrate the terrible results to the individual and the race of these vicious practices, women should not close their eyes and ears. Mothers should look to it. Mistresses of schools, matrons of establishments for the reception of girls, wives of every class, and most practised perhaps in the middle and lower—all women placed in authority over the young are responsible.—*Daily News*.

THE DRESS OF THE PERIOD.—On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. Treves, F.R.C.S., gave a lecture at the Kensington Town Hall, in connection with the National Health Society, on the subject of the Dress of the Period. Dr. Andrew Clark was to have presided, but had been called away into the country, and Professor Flower took the chair in his place. A letter from Dr. Clark was read, referring to Mr. Treves as an accomplished anatomist, a skilful surgeon, and a very thoughtful, able, and earnest man. The lecturer said the object of dress was to maintain an equal temperature over the body, but female dress failed to fulfil this object. Full evening dress might be said to divide the lady wearer into two frigid, the temples and the midriff zones. The greater part of the lecture was devoted to the subject of tight lacing, though French boots and shoes, trains, gloves covering the arm, crinolines, and other freaks of dress were noticed, and much amusement was caused by a quotation from a recent article in the *Daily News*, that "with this style of bonnet the mouth should be worn slightly opened." The true lines of the female form (with a waist of twenty-eight inches) were illustrated by a model of Thorvaldsen's Venus; the fashionable waist was shown by a costume on model, lent by Messrs. Shobred and Co., the waist measurement being twenty-one inches; and the "dressmaker's ideal" was depicted in a drawing from a fashion plate. With respect to the last, Mr. Treves said it was some consolation to know that the proportions represented were not inconsistent with life. Costumes modelled were to be found in a collection with a measurement of twenty-five inches round the waist, but even that implied a compression of at least three inches. He explained, and demonstrated by means of diagrams, the injurious effect of compression on the lungs, the heart, the stomach, and the liver, and quoted from the *Lancet*, and from Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Central Middlesex, to show that death from tight-lacing was by no means uncommon. A fashionably-dressed woman, he said, must walk ungracefully; and no one ever had a small waist naturally, except as the result of disease or deformity. For evening dress the lecturer spoke approvingly of the recently introduced "Greek costume," which was exhibited on a model. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Treves on the motion of Mr. Ernest Hart, seconded by Dr. Carpenter. The hall was densely filled by ladies; and so many ladies were unable to obtain admittance, that it was announced that the lecture would be repeated on March 18.

THE DUNECHT MYSTERY.

An Aberdeen correspondent wrote on Sunday night:—What has for the last three months been known as the Dunecht mystery remains as great a mystery as ever. Its present revival is founded on the arrest of two men supposed to have been connected with the snatching of the body of the late Earl of Balcarres from the family crypt last year. In the month of September last an anonymous letter which indicated that the body had been stolen was received by the Aberdeen agents of Lord Balcarres, giving information of the removal of the body. The letter, being evidently the work of some illiterate person, was considered at the time as a hoax and therefore disregarded. Shortly after the crime was discovered, however, another anonymous letter was received. It was signed "Nabob," and offered to restore the missing body on payment of £2,000. The present arrests have been made on the ground of the result of inquiries into the writer of this "Nabob" letter. It had been going on through the medium of newspaper advertisements with one of the parties arrested, such replies apparently emanating from several towns in Scotland. The replies, however, always coming from the same place, and the handwriting always bearing a striking resemblance to that of "Nabob," a warrant was granted last week for the arrest of this person. The arrest having been accomplished, the man, whose name is Thomas Kirkwood, a joiner by trade, was taken to London and brought before Lord Crawford, whose servant he had been for several years, and subsequently before the Scotland-yard authorities, but he refused to answer any questions about his connection or supposed connection with the robbery from Dunecht tomb. On Saturday morning Kirkwood arrived in Aberdeen from London, on the charge of Inspector Swanson of the police. It was apprehended that two other arrests would be made, and that the three prisoners should meet face to face in the County Constabulary Office in Aberdeen. Immediately on Kirkwood's arrival one other arrest was accomplished. It was that of John Phillip, a shoemaker in Aberdeen, formerly a soldier and a drill instructor, in the neighbourhood of Dunecht. The third party, like Kirkwood, a resident in the vicinity of Dunecht House, was not at home when the officer with the warrant arrived. The two prisoners were brought before the Sheriff and the Procurator-Fiscal of Aberdeenshire on Saturday afternoon. The proceedings were strictly private, and the prisoners were remanded for a week. It is understood, however, that the chief feature of the evidence against one of the two prisoners was the similarity of the handwriting and the phraseology of the letters sent to the anonymous letter referred to. It may be mentioned that Kirkwood is 44 years of age and Phillips 49. Detective-Inspector Swanson arrived from London on Saturday afternoon, but Mr. Alcock, Lord Crawford's London agent, remained in Aberdeen, while Lord Crawford himself will remain at Dunecht until it can be seen what shape the further proceedings in the case will take. The inspector, who left Aberdeen on Friday night, was furnished with two warrants, one to search Kirkwood's house, and the other to search the house occupied by one of the servants of the estate. The warrants were duly executed, causing great alarm and consternation in the respective localities. The search of Kirkwood's house began at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning, and lasted for two hours, his wife protesting his innocence. Kirkwood is a workman of more than ordinary skill. He receives from Lord Balcarres a free house, fire, and light, and about £30 per annum. Phillips has been for some time employed at a leather merchant's in Gallogan.

OPENING OF THE ELECTRICAL EXHIBITION.

Electrical Exhibition, which has for so many weeks formed in its preparation one of the principal attractions of the Crystal Palace, was formally inaugurated on Saturday evening, in the presence of a large assembly, by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who, with the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, were the honoured guests of the chairman and directors of the institution. The Royal Highnesses attended the opening of the exhibition, and the Duke and Duchess, accompanied by Lord and Lady Beauchamp, Captain Colville, Lady Emma Osborne, Captain Clarke, and Sir Cunliffe Owen, arrived at the Palace at a few minutes past six o'clock.

and were received at the doors by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. M. McGeorge, Professor Sylvanus Thompson, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Thomson, Major Flood Page (manager), etc., who at once conducted the Royal Party through the building, and showed them the principal features of interest. Of course in a visit of moderate duration only a tithe of the numerous exhibits could by any possibility be brought under their view; but the

youngest daughter of Mr. Evans-Lombe, of Blytha Park, Norfolk.

Mr. George Leeman, late M.P. for York, ex-chairman of the North-Eastern Railway, twice Lord Mayor of York, and the holder of several important public offices, died at Scarborough on Saturday afternoon.

VANITY FAIRINGS.

It is impossible for anybody with any heart at all to avoid feeling an affectionate sympathy with "Jumbo" in his trials. This most excellent and amiable elephant has lived with us for seventeen years; he has carried some of us upon his back when we were children, he has married here, and has always behaved himself in the most kindly and orderly manner, and yet tempted by Barnum and a miserable £22,000, the Council of the Zoological Society have given the inhumanity to sell him into American slavery. That who should have refused to leave the home and the friends of his youth, and should have passively resisted all attempts to inveigle him away from them, gives me a higher opinion of him than of many of my other fellow-citizens. Jumbo thinks as I do, that this country is good enough for the likes of me, and I am grateful to him for refusing to leave it. If we are to sell any living creatures at all—especially if we are to sell them on the score that they may become dangerous in their old age—there are a good many, beginning with the present Ministry, who might be sold cheap.

I am told by a friend who has lived much with elephants that the only thing required to prevent any possibility of trouble with Jumbo, would make his life a happy, contented, and orderly one for ever, domestic felicity. The "royal" elephant becomes a rogue only because he has been deprived of this domestic felicity by his fellows, and has been turned out by them to wander for ever in single-curdness. And so, if we wish to make Jumbo happy and contented, we must give him, as we give our Royal Princes, a proper establishment. This would consist of a certain number of companions and of a proper suite of apartments for them. But as we are all determined to keep Jumbo, there can be no hesitation about what is after all merely a question of money, and Jumbo's establishment should be provided.

Something has been said of the age to which elephants have been known to live. Now I am assured that there is now in the possession of the Indian Government an elephant who was at the battle of Plassey, and who must therefore be at least one hundred and forty years old.

Bicycles have become a serious public nuisance. For all who ride and drive they are objects of terror and hatred, and it is hard to come across the slim counter-skiper on his noiseless wheel without feelings the reverse of charitable towards him and his infernal machine. It may not be possible to get rid of the bicycle, but common fairness demands that it should be subjected to the two guinea license tax